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RODUCER

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



DENVER WINNER PRAISES MOORMAN'S

BEST evidence of the value of MoorMan's Range Minerals for Cattle is furnished by the reports from cattlemen all over the range country who regularly feed this labor-saving, profit-making mineral.

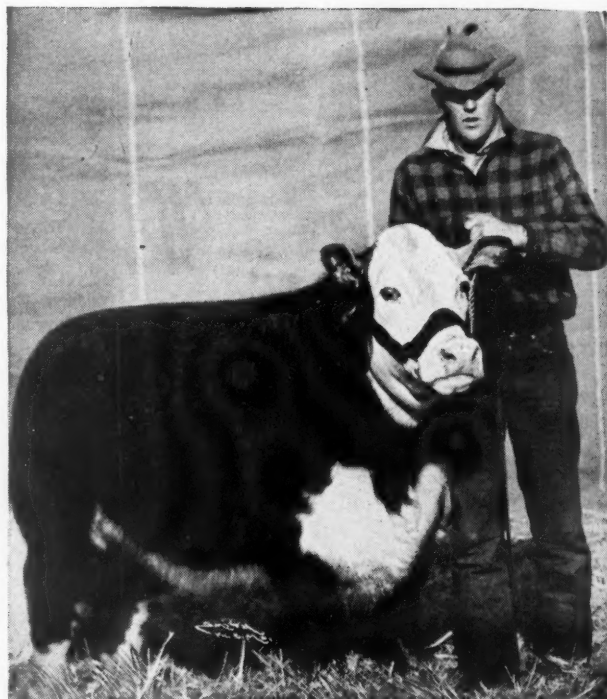
For instance, Carl Raish, Jr., of Montrose County, Colorado, says:

"My 4-H Club 'Catch It' calf, caught in Denver at the 1943 National Livestock Show, was fed MoorMan's GroFat Minerals from the start. This calf made exceptional weight gains, finished well and was never off feed.

"At the 1944 Denver National Livestock Show this calf won First Place in the 'Catch It' class, and First Place in the 'less than 875' class.

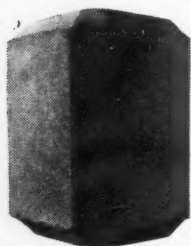
"My family runs 200 head of Hereford cows on the range, and we are feeding them MoorMan's Range Cattle Minerals with good results."

A lot of wartime shortages will come to an end with peace. But the shortage of badly needed minerals in your grass will keep right on getting worse and worse. Every steer that goes off your place takes pounds and pounds of minerals with him. Erosion and leaching will also continue to cause never-ending mineral losses.



That is why more and more successful cattlemen are setting out labor-saving 50-pound blocks of MoorMan's Range Minerals for Cattle. That's all there is to it. The special MoorMan binder keeps the blocks soft enough for ready consumption, yet highly resistant to heat and cold, rain and snow—the worst the weather can provide.

GET THE FACTS NOW . . . ASK YOUR MOORMAN DEALER, OR CLIP THE COUPON



MoorMan's

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MOORMAN MFG. CO., DEPT. K-102,
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Without obligation to me, please rush full information about the labor-saving profit-making features of MoorMan's Range Minerals for Cattle.

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Price Ceilings

THE present price ceilings on beef, aside from the adjustments made incidental to the subsidy-roll-back program a year ago, were established on December 16, 1942. No one contended at that time that these ceilings were unduly high. Range cattle producers and feeders accepted them as being the best compromise that could be worked out with OPA, although there was some complaint by feeders that they were not high enough even then.

Since December 16, 1942, there have been numerous changes in the cost of producing and feeding cattle, every single change in the nature of an increase. In the range country, no doubt, the biggest single item of increase is labor, which has about doubled in cost. Other items substantially increased were concentrates, the ceilings of which were raised \$10 to \$12 per ton last summer, forest grazing fees, which have worked up to the highest point on record, while materials, supplies and equipment of all kinds are substantially higher. The same is likewise true of all feeds which have to be bought in connection with general ranching operations.

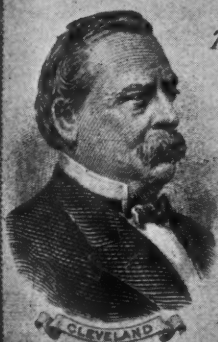
In the Corn Belt the increase has been more marked. The average farm price of corn in December, 1942, was 80.2 cents per bushel. The ceiling

price today is \$1.16 per bushel. It is freely charged that much corn now changes hands at higher than ceiling prices. The Corn Belt, too, has had its increases clear across the board in the prices of other feeds, labor, materials, supplies and equipment.

The law under which OPA is operating clearly indicates that adjustments should be made from time to time to take care of these increased costs. OPA refuses to obey the law and therein lies the source of discontent and dissatisfaction that are registered on all sides and which are the cause of the numerous amendments that are being shoved into the hopper at the last minute, as the Senate and House conclude their consideration of the bill to extend the life of OPA.

The administration shortsightedly claims that every single increase in the ceiling price of any standard commodity is equivalent to opening the door wide to inflation. There is no justification for such wild claims. From the very beginning of the war no one has expected that prices could be held absolutely in check, and the administration itself is to blame for being unwilling to pass legislation that would come close to freezing all costs of operation. It insisted instead on leaving the door wide open to labor increases and only reluctantly tried to close this door after it was too late.

OUR BEST EDITORIAL SUBJECT: BUY BONDS

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
TEN YEARS FROM THE ISSUE DATE HEREOF WILL PAY	
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 To	MR. AND MRS. AMERICA
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Now certain officials of OPA go so far in their mania for holding the line as to insist that the western range cattle producer should absorb not only all the increased costs of producing range cattle but likewise all the increased costs of feeding them for market. They tell the feeder that he is paying too much for his feeder cattle, although prices today and for months past have ranged from \$1.50 to \$2 per 100 below the same period a year ago. If, on top of this substantial decrease, range cattle producers must now make a further sacrifice of \$1 to \$2 per 100 in order to provide a margin of profit for the feeders of the Corn Belt, it will be the only instance on record where OPA has so abused its powers, refused to make the proper adjustments in ceiling prices and instead insisted that prices be lowered rather than raised. More important to the war effort than the effect this unsound policy has upon the producers and feeders is the possible effect in preventing the production of adequate supplies of beef. It is generally believed that the feedlots now being emptied will not soon again operate to anywhere near capacity. A shortage of well-finished beef in the next two or three months seems almost certain. Then there should be adequate supplies of grass beef for some months to come, but year-round supplies of beef can be furnished only by proper use of the Corn Belt feedlots.

Producers and feeders have worked side by side to persuade OPA of the danger in the offing. If their warnings go entirely unheeded the responsibility for the future beef supply must rest squarely with the OPA.

Meat Rationing

IS meat rationing necessary? Arguments pro and con are heard on every hand. The fact that production is at an all-time peak and the amount left for civilian use after army and lend-lease requirements are met is as much or more than our normal consumption would indicate that the need for rationing is not acute. But this fails to take into consideration the fact that purchasing power is great and that shortage of many consumer goods makes possible the spending of much greater amounts than normal for food.

Some producers have felt that rationing is one of the major causes of increased cattle numbers, but there is little evidence to support this theory. In the main, it appears that there are more meat points out than there is meat available, and in many areas beef in particular is in very short supply. This is shown by surveys made by OPA, by the American Meat Institute, by chain stores, etc.

The change in rationing made early in May has tended to confuse rather than to enlighten people as to the real truth of the situation. It is the generally accepted view that this did not originate with OPA but was ordered from above for political reasons. Already OPA is hinting that certain cuts of pork and lamb are to be returned soon to the ration list. New York consumer groups are demanding that this

step be taken in order that distribution may be more equitable.

There have been many predictions of a cattle movement this fall so heavy as to clog the markets. If such runs develop, OPA has assured us that the rationing policy will be altered to meet whatever situation may arise to the point of making beef ration point-free if the supply is sufficient.

It does not appear that beef supplies today are sufficient to warrant such a step. A return of special cuts of lamb and pork to the ration list should make possible a program that would be fair to all.

The producer has a real interest in getting good distribution. It is not well that there should be acute shortages in major consuming areas. No doubt black markets have contributed to making these acute shortages and better enforcement, for which funds are provided in the new appropriation bill, is highly desirable.

We have found the ration division of OPA anxious to cooperate and willing to receive suggestions. We hope this attitude will continue during the critical months ahead. Rationing is an unwelcome war visitor and we want it done away with as quickly as possible, but we believe that to date it has helped minimize the shock of war on the average American family table.

Plan for Marketing

REPRESENTATIVES of the livestock industry in the past two months have been trying to get the OPA to change some of its meat price regulations to facilitate the big fall cattle marketings. They have suggested slight upward price revisions in top grades and in hides so that the feeder might have the margin he needs in which to operate. They have shown that feeding and production costs have perhaps doubled since price ceilings were set. So far OPA has stood pat on present ceilings, regardless of possible effect on feeding operations. It has apparently, however, abandoned the idea of lowering some of the price schedules in the Vinson stabilization order. Producers strongly protested against a suggestion by OPA that this be done.

There is a plan, however, that has been suggested by practical observers on every side—that stockmen market as early as possible what they can properly dispose of and carry out even now a moderate reduction program. Cited as reasons for this are: the high livestock inventory, lack of enough feed for all the animals, brisk demand for meat, good prices now but danger of a drop when runs get heavy and shortage of packinghouse labor. No one has meant to throw a scare into the industry in suggesting early marketing. They simply point to the present condition as a risky one and to the present time as one in which it is well to shape things up for the future—and the success of the invasion of Europe and increased military actions in other theaters of war have brought into even stronger focus the need for preparing now for the return to a balanced production level.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

Horses Revolutionized Life for the Indians

By JOHN K. STANDISH

OUR GREAT WESTERN RANGES furnished subsistence for other domestic animals besides cattle. Probably the first of these were horses, brought here by the Spaniards. An expedition that went from New Mexico to the Missouri took along both mares and stallions. Numbers of these escaped to become the progenitors of the wild horses found on the plains by our early explorers.

Until the introduction of horses into this region Indians followed game afoot, utilizing dogs as their beasts of burden. They carried packs and drew travois, and the use of dogs continued until of late. I have seen dogs belonging to Piegiens fitted with miniature travois draw what must have been heavy loads for such small animals.

Although Coronado says the Indians he saw in New Mexico, the Texas Panhandle and Kansas did not have horses in 1545 and expressed great surprise at seeing them, it did not take them long to tame some of the wild horses for riding and to aid in the transportation of their few belongings from place to place.

Helped in Warfare

The Indians who owned horses were in a far better condition to wage war or to hunt than other tribes who still went afoot—a fact some other tribes were not slow in discovering. They, too, must have horses. If they could not buy them they would steal them. However gained, horses rapidly found their way northward and their possession constituted the wealth of the red man. They were used in love as well as in war. Those who are familiar with Indian customs tell us that if an Indian "a-woing went," he fastened a horse at the tepee which sheltered his beloved. Should this proffered gift find acceptance, it was considered equivalent to an engagement or marriage, after a few more ponies, robes, etc., had been given to the maiden's father.

Many persons believe the wild horses are of Arabian blood. This prevailing opinion finds its origin in the supposition that the wild horses of the range are descendants of Spanish horses. The Spaniards conquered the Moors; the Moors undoubtedly owned Arab steeds; therefore, the mustang has a strain of that famed breed, they reasoned. Unfortunately this theory is overthrown on learning that Spain has never been noted for its horses, and, if it were, there is nothing to prove the best came over with the Spanish conquerors.

Says Will C. Barnes of the mustang: "Mustanging" was like trout fishing. It is always the big ones that get away.

When you got a bunch of them into a corral you found they did not look half so large and handsome as when they were first sighted on the prairie. The coal-black stallion with arching neck and tail and mane dragging on the ground, which led the band, was the 'Flying Dutchman' of the plains. True, in later days an occasional large, well-built, well-bred horse was seen among the mustangs, but when captured it always turned out to be an 'escape' lost from some stockman's herd or traveler's team, generally well branded and bearing saddle and harness marks. The wild horses of the present day are not mustangs at all but well-bred horses that have been allowed to get away from their owners through poor range handling or lost from pastures or wagon trains."

This was true of the wild horses of 1913, when Mr. Barnes' book was published. Our present wild horses that are being rounded up for the slaughterhouses are animals which have gone into the discard with the coming of the automobile and tractor. These wild horses bear little resemblance to the mustang. The best horses owned by the Indians were well-bred, for white men brought good horses into the country but were not always able to protect them from skilled Indian horse thieves.

Some tribes, notably the Nez Percés, were noted for their fine horses, as the Crows were quick to discover, and the Crows made frequent journeys across the mountains to bring back these coveted animals to the Yellowstone coun-

try; and it was not long after the introduction of horses into the Southwest before they were plentiful on the northern ranges. Fear that horses would be stolen was one of the reasons oxen were largely used by travelers and freighters across the plains. Oxen were slow but sure, unless stampeded.

One would have thought Indians might steal cattle for food. They never liked the flesh of beef so well as buffalo meat. Then, too, they could not swoop down on cattle and drive them rapidly away at such speed that they were not likely to be overtaken. It is admitted that the use of oxen saved the lives of numerous pioneers. Army supply trains were often drawn by mules or horses, and unless strongly guarded, were likely to be left stranded on the prairie with no means of going on until new motive power was supplied them. It was common for an early day pioneer to see a train under such circumstances and to hear the unprintable profanity of its wagon boss, which doubtless eased his mind even though it did not bring back the stolen horses.

Plight of a Supply Train

In describing such an incident, a Montana pioneer pictured to the writer the predicament of an army supply train which was stranded, as follows:

"It was in the month of October when we passed this train, and already the nights were cold—too cold for comfort. It was a long distance to Salt Lake; the Sioux were on the warpath, and there was no immediate prospect of improvement in the situation for this man we saw seated on a wagon tongue, hurling strange oaths at the Indians who stole his horses. Trains passed him daily on their way east or west, but none of them had the time or ability to aid him further than to inform others, who might be able to go to his



Before the coming of the horses on the plains, dogs were used as beasts of burden by the Indians, often dragging heavily loaded travois. The picture depicts a typical scene in western Montana many years ago, showing a dog harnessed to a travois. (Photo from collection of rare historical scenes of the Northwest owned by John K. Standish, Seattle, Wash.)

assistance, of his predicament. Fortunately he had with him enough men to guard the wagons and the supplies they contained until a relief train arrived."

There was a time, not so long ago, when it was profitable for ranchers to raise horses. Then they declined in price until the Boer War caused an increased demand. No one visioned the rapidly approaching day of the horseless carriage and the horseless agricultural implements which would enable the farmer to dispense with horses. When automobiles became common, hundreds of horses entered upon a period of leisure unknown to them before. They shared the fate of the escaped horses of an earlier day, and became wild.

The stockman necessarily kept horses. Without them, where would the typical cowboy who now figures at rodeos have received his education in horsemanship, which surpasses that of the Arab of the desert? The stockmen did not consider horses good grazers. On account of their playfulness, they ran about a good deal, injuring the sod, driving cattle away from watering places and killing calves, either by chasing them or running over them. It is also said they are closer grazers than sheep. For these reasons, more was charged for pasturing horses than for cattle.

There will always be a demand for horses, but it is doubtful if they ever again will occupy the prominent place among domestic animals that they did in the past. The "Young Lochinvar" of the present day does not flee with his bride on his trusty steed but in the more speedy automobile, and Mazeppa* by way of torture would be turned over to the local police for the administration of the third degree. Romance fares hard in this machine age.

* Hetman of the Cossacks, the hero and title of a poem by Lord Byron. He belonged to a noble Polish family, and while serving as a page at the court of the King of Poland engaged in a love intrigue with the young wife of a count. By order of her husband Mazeppa was fastened to a wild horse, which was then cast loose. The page was rescued by some Cossacks, and became by favor of Peter I of Russia a prince of the Ukraine. He afterward fought against the Russians.

Damage By Coyotes Increasing

Coyotes are doing more damage to western range lands than at any time for several years, despite the fact that 123,000 of the predatory animals were killed in states west of the Missouri during the past year, according to Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, chief of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Dr. Gabrielson said that coyotes began to multiply during the depression when the price of furs dropped from \$10 to \$20 each down to \$1.50 and \$2. Coincidentally control funds were curtailed. These statements were made before a House subcommittee in a hearing on appropriations for predatory control work.

The Yavapai Calf Plan

By CHARLES FRANKLIN PARKER

THE YEAR 1933 WAS A TOUGH one for the cattlemen of the West. Four cents was tops for range beef and 1½ cents was an average selling price, if one could find a buyer. The American National Live Stock Association had exhausted its funds and created a mounting indebtedness. Cattlemen were in need of organization and beef sales required boosting, but cattlemen had many cattle and little money to use for such purposes. The outlook was foreboding.

It remained for the cattle growers of Arizona's Yavapai County to do the impossible. Their forebears had fought Indians as well as drought to make the cienagas, sparse water holes and arid range support a substantial industry. The men of 1933 were no less enterprising.

Plan Is Simple

In 1933 the hills of Yavapai were the grazing grounds for an overabundance of cattle. Cattlemen were cattle poor, and yet the trail to possible salvation crossed a chasm that must be bridged by a cooperative effort that demanded a cash outlay. One afternoon, when the prospects were darkest, Clarence C. Jackson, then president of the Yavapai Cattle Growers' Association, went to talk the matter over once more with E. S. Turville, county agent. The conversation on that day culminated in this manner: Jackson summed it up by saying, "We all have cattle but no money. If we could give them (the National) cattle instead of cash we could sure help them." To this Turville replied with the interrogation that was to give Jackson's suggestion life and inaugurate the now well-known Yavapai plan. "Then why not give them the cattle and let them sell them?" In this very simple and practical way there germinated a solution to a baffling dilemma.

Much study was given to perfecting the idea into a workable plan of action. The method was carefully outlined and the matter in its entirety was presented to the association at a meeting in Camp Verde and accepted enthusiastically. In simplest terms the plan was and is just this: Each cattle grower was asked to give a "weaner" calf (or the equivalent in money) from his herd, to deliver the calf to a designated central loading place on a given date for shipping, and the proceeds to go to the fund, for the support of the American National Live Stock Association. Thus a campaign to stimulate the beef market and promote the sale of beef cattle was begun. The response was so good that in December, 1933, about 100 calves were delivered at Kirkland for shipping. These calves were bought by Ray Cowden of Phoenix at ¼ cent per pound. The proof lay in success and the plan was established.

At the annual meeting of the American National Live Stock Association in Albuquerque, N. M., early in 1934 Cort Carter, president of the Yavapai Cattle Growers, presented the now famous \$1,000 check to the American National, which is credited as marking the turn in affairs for the cattlemen's organization. For 11 years now, 1933 to 1944 inclusive, this Yavapai County cattlemen's association has raised a like amount through its unique plan for the American National.

Cattle but No Cash

It is so simple that one may wonder why all this enthusiasm over it. The answer is to be found readily in a letter received from F. E. Mollin, executive secretary of the American National, giving an appraisal after 10 years of operation. Mr. Mollin says in part:

"The presentation of the first \$1,000 check at Albuquerque in 1934 was a memorable occasion. It provided the inspiration for many other local organizations to adopt similar plans or to devise ways of their own to raise more money to carry on the important business of the cattle industry.

"To me, fully as important as improving the financial condition of the organizations which have benefited from such activity is the fact that practically every member of the local organization has been brought into the picture and plays an equal part in carrying on the work of the industry . . . with changing conditions there has been steadily increasing need for organized activity, and only the local organizations can reach out and contact every producer in a given territory. The National, and even state associations, have difficulty in making such complete contacts. It has been very interesting to me to follow the course of events since the Albuquerque convention. The important thing is not the method of collection but the ability to reach them all.

"I hope that the next 10 years will show that the cattle industry is better organized than it is today, but I am sure it is fair to say that today it is better organized than ever before and the Yavapai calf plan provided the torch that led the way."

In 1933 Robert Perkins, secretary of the Yavapai Cattle Growers, stated that "weaner calves should average a net of at least \$10 when sold." In 1943 60 weaner calves sold at the Yavapai calf sale for an average of \$60.25. These changed conditions have not lessened but increased the desire of these cattlemen to give support to their local, state and national associations.

In 1933 the calves were brought to a central loading place, sold and shipped. Beginning with the second year of the

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Yavapai County cattlemen in 1934 gave their first \$1,000 to help the American National Live Stock Association to represent the cattlemen. Since then every year Arizona's Yavapai organization has sent \$1,000 to the National.

sale in 1934 an added feature appeared—the barbecue. The time of the annual calf sale became the great time of gathering for all the cattlemen, their families and friends. In 1943 it required six quarters of beef to feed the assembled crowd.

This annual calf sale now has several distinctive features in addition to the barbecue and the sale of the calves. It not only raises the necessary funds for the organizational activities of the National and county association, but it affords a grand social gathering for these people living on isolated ranches and long characterized as individualists. Even more important, it has come to be a time for education about range cattle and range management, and, too, these cooperative activities have stimulated more activities and the regular monthly meetings of this county association are times for dealing with major problems of the industry.

Human nature responds to the ideas of contests. It is true among these people. They have long had their rodeos and their contests of range sports. The idea of the contest has entered into this annual event of the calf sale. The calves, after they are unloaded from the trucks into the pens, are judged by expert judges and the five best are selected from the total. These five in turn are placed by the judges and winners are

announced after the other folks have had ample opportunity to see the selections. The winners of these contests are truly honored. It is a mark of distinction to have the best calf at the calf sale, and the outfit that wins the honor not only produces good calves, but knows how to select good ones for the contest, and, further, a fine calf and not a cut-back has been given for this cooperative endeavor. This factor has had a part in improving Yavapai range cattle.

There is no doubt that changing conditions and certainly the greatly expanded demands of the present emergency have boosted the cattle prices since the low price periods of 1933 and 1934, but it can be believed that the inauguration of the Yavapai plan may have had considerable to do with the changing trend in the years immediately following, since the plan offered funds on a national scale for advertising and promoting the actual sales of beef to the ultimate consumer.

Through the calf sale and the attendant advertising Yavapai County has become and remains an active market for buyers of feeder cattle. The importance of this to cattle growers cannot be overestimated. If buyers of feeder cattle become aware that in a given locality there is a large number of good feeder calves and steers each year one of the great worries of the producer is eliminated. A

grower may have good cattle, but unless a buyer is aware of this fact his selling may be a troublesome and trying experience. To know that your cattle are sold when they are delivered at the shipping point is not only a great relief but it reduces the grower's responsibility and his likelihood of loss both as to shrinkage and danger in shipping.

The cattle industry of Yavapai County is of no mean size and value, and to have developed a standing as a supplier of good feeder stock is no mean achievement. Figures based on the census of 1940 indicate that there are at least 125 producing units in the county (a producing unit being one with over 100 head of cattle). The acreage involved in the operations of these producing units approximates 1,600,000 acres. It was estimated that in 1940 there were about 70,000 head of cattle on the ranges of the Yavapai hills with a valuation of \$3,200,000 given as a conservative figure, and the valuation of the holdings of the outfits was \$4,375,000.

"A bullock tried to enter a Burnley butcher's shop full of customers. But before women shoppers could get panicky the man behind the counter, addressing the bullock, said: 'A bit before your time, aren't you, chum?' His good humor saved the situation."—*Meat Trades Journal* (London).

July, 1944

Mexico's Cattle Industry

By ESTHER H. JOHNSON*

ONE OF THE OLDEST CATTLE INDUSTRIES in the Western Hemisphere is that of Mexico, our neighboring republic south of the Rio Grande. Cattle were first brought to Mexico in the early part of the sixteenth century, and although production trends have shown occasional severe reversals, the number on farms and ranches at present is estimated to be about 12,000,000 head. The value of the annual calf crop is estimated roughly at \$25,000,000 and so far as agriculture and livestock are concerned this value is exceeded only by the estimated value of annual corn production.

Before the discovery of America the only domesticated animals known to exist on the North American continent were the turkey and the dog. Cattle, unlike many of the important crops such as corn, potatoes and tobacco, were not indigenous to America but were brought here soon after its discovery by Columbus, who on his second voyage, in December, 1493, brought some animals from the Spanish peninsula to Santo Domingo. Although the exact time of the introduction of cattle into Mexico is not known, records show that Gregory Villalobos, then Captain General of Mexico, brought cattle over from Santo Domingo in 1521 and that later importations were made by Coronado, Oñate and Fray Marcos. The present city of Cuernavaca, meaning "Cowhorn," is located on

the original ranch of that name established by Cortez with cattle brought from his ranch in Cuba.

The foundation stock of Mexico's cattle industry easily became adjusted to Mexico, where climate and topography resemble those of the Spanish peninsula, their earlier home. On the broad unfenced grazing lands of Mexico they multiplied rapidly.

Wherever the Spanish went they wisely took livestock with them. Only a decade or so after Villalobos had brought cattle to Mexico, Coronado rounded up 500 head, in addition to thousands of sheep, goats and hogs, and then took them with him on his search for the "seven golden cities of Cibola" in what is now New Mexico. These probably were the first cattle to enter the present area of the United States.

On the long trip northward through Mexico, Coronado left a number of animals along his route. Before the end of the sixteenth century thousands of cattle were reported as running wild in the states of Sinaloa, Durango and Chihuahua. These wild herds of cattle which roamed over the vast pasture lands of northern Mexico became the nucleus of the feeder cattle later to be exported to the United States.

During the Colonial period nearly all importations of cattle into Mexico were from the Spanish peninsula but, later

on, some importations were made from other European countries. Although the first Brown Swiss are said to have been imported back in 1870, only during the past 15 years have the larger importations of this breed been made. This breed is used mostly for dairy purposes but is favored along the hot coastal regions for beef production. Shorthorns were imported principally for milk at first but in 1874 importations for meat purposes were made into the state of Chihuahua. The first Herefords are said to have been brought in in 1876, the first Devonshires in 1879, Galloways in 1880, Dutch Belteds in 1882, and Brahmas in 1884. Red Polled cattle were introduced in 1910, and in 1928 Aberdeen-Angus and Charolais, the French breed, were introduced. At the present time nearly all the important breeds of the world have been introduced into Mexico. Records show, however, that only since 1920 have imports of good breeding stock been made on a fairly large scale.

Cattle are produced in every state of Mexico. The five leading states for this industry, according to the 1940 census, are Jalisco, Veracruz, Chihuahua, Michoacan and Sonora. Contrary to common belief the largest concentration is not in the northern states of Mexico but in the central part of the country in the vicinity of Mexico City. There are, however, more cattle per capita and larger individual herds in the northern part.

The larger ranches in the northern part of the country produce most of the cattle that are exported to the United States, and livestock management practices here, quite naturally, are similar to those north of the Rio Grande. Because droughts are more prevalent in north-central Mexico than in other parts of the country, more pasture land is needed per animal; hence, the large acreage per ranch. Many of the ranches in northern Mexico contain 50,000 to 175,000 acres. The number of cattle on each ranch varies from 400 to 10,000 head.

* From a consular report by Mervin G. Smith, American Embassy, Mexico City, as summarized by Esther Johnson in *Agriculture in the Americas*.

PASTURES WELL FILLED

The Osage-Flint Hills pastures of Oklahoma and Kansas are well filled with cattle and have good pasture feed and excellent soil moisture. Ten per cent fewer cattle came this spring than last but about 11 per cent more than two years ago. Total number may therefore equal last year's. The movement into the two sections this spring was 310,000 head compared with 345,000 last spring, 280,000 two years ago and 295,000 for the 1932-43 average. Some reports indicated that there was a smaller proportion of aged steers and cows a year ago and a larger proportion of young cattle. Pastures in other sections of Kansas and Oklahoma received a much smaller number of cattle this spring than last. Movement from the Southwest was below that of last spring.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



This animal is typical of the kind slaughtered for consumption in the larger cities of Mexico. Note adobe corral wall.

Up-to-the-Minute Discussions of the Problems of the Livestock Industry

(For an insight into today's problems of the cattle industry we invite our readers' attention to the following three articles by top officials of the American National Live Stock Association. They are the reports made at state conventions by the president, vice-president, and executive secretary.)

A. D. BROWNFIELD—

THE LIVESTOCK BUSINESS TODAY

It is faced with many uncertainties. There is uncertainty over getting liquidation of excess numbers; uncertainty over the possibility of getting feedlots filled; uncertainty over slaughterers being able to continue operating at full capacity, and uncertainty over the post-war demand. These uncertainties need to be ironed out if the industry is to continue with a degree of satisfaction.

Since the beginning of the war cattle numbers have increased steadily, although the slaughter has increased sharply. Some of this is due to an upward swing in the cycle, some to a series of good years and some of the increase has been brought about through the government's insistence on increasing production and marketing. Much of it is due to an increased demand for beef with an upward swing in price. This expansion in cattle numbers, both beef with an upward swing on price. This expansion in cattle numbers, both beef and dairy cattle, at a time when there has been increased demand for feed by all segments of the industry as well as by the government, has surpassed feed production, and one problem now ahead of the producer is to begin a moderate program of liquidation in order to balance numbers with feed supplies. This calls for heavy marketing of grass-fat animals and a movement of large numbers into feeders' hands. The influence of supply and demand has had its effect on prices even though we have the Vinson price directive. For example, the average price for stockers and feeders at Kansas City in May, 1943, was \$14.60, and in May, 1944, \$12.84, a downward difference of \$1.76. While the average price of fed steers in Chicago in May, 1943, was \$15.44, in May of this year the average was identical—\$15.44. This shows what has been absorbed already this year by the range cattle producer; in addition there can be added a very substantial increase in his own production costs. This is perhaps sufficient justification for asking for the next adjustment to come by way of an advance in the price of beef, so the raise may be reflected in the live animal, and consequently if granted will broaden the price margin sufficiently to compensate the feeder.

There are two conditions surrounding

the feedlot operator either of which if changed may cause a movement of cattle from the ranges to the feedlots. One is an agreement over price between the grower and feedlot operator; the other is an adjustment in the ceiling price of wholesale meat sufficient to allow the processor to reflect this price in the purchase of the fat animal, and an announced feed management plan by the government.

That something is discouraging and holding the feeder back is obvious. It is only necessary to glance at the shipment figures. Shipments of stocker and feeder steers out of Chicago, Kansas City and St. Paul and Omaha during five months, January to May, were 180,000 head; last year shipments were 282,000. This is the best kind of evidence that adjustments must be made if a continuing supply of beef is to be had when grass shipments are finished this fall.

Keeping the feedlot operator in the game by some device of the government to force the price down is apt to cause the reduction program to fail. Furthermore, if shipments are made direct to central markets by growers until an oversupply is received, there is certain to be a slump in the price, particularly in the lower grades of cattle, which are invariably in the majority. Cows come into this class, and this more than likely would defeat the reduction program, for when cows sell too cheaply the tendency is to hold for another calf.

Last year the proportion of she-stuff marketed was only about 46 per cent of the total. If liquidating in numbers is to afford any relief to the industry, this proportion must be pushed up beyond 50 per cent. Official reports of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics for Apr. 1, 1944, show 23 per cent fewer cattle on

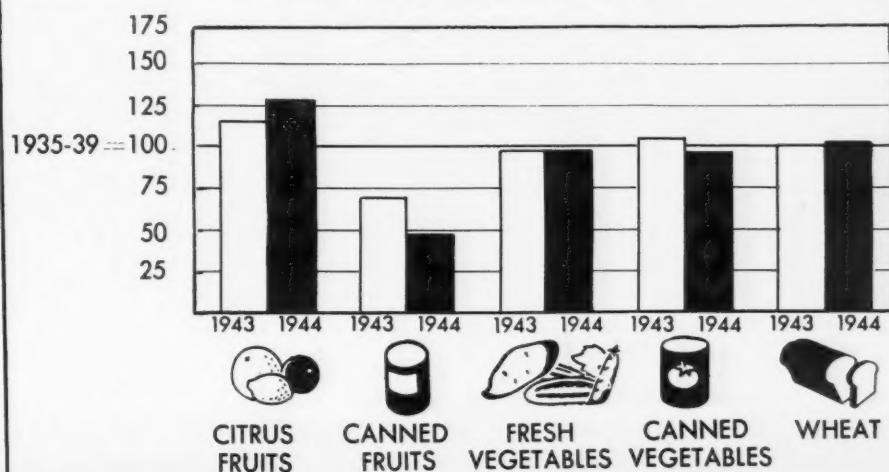
feed in the 11 Corn Belt states than on that date in 1943. We understand that as of June 1 the number on feed was 32 per cent less than a year ago. This decrease has occurred despite the fact that stocker and feeder cattle are now selling at close to \$2 per cwt. less than a year ago. This failure of cattle to return to the feedlot can only be attributable to loss of confidence by the feeder over the government's failure to institute a sound feed management program.

There are several things needed perhaps to influence the continued full-time operation by the slaughterer: First, an assurance of plenty of skilled workmen, necessary machinery and parts; second, a justifiable profit sufficient to cause those who have gone out of business to re-enter and those now operating to do so on overtime wages if and when necessary. Unless the slaughterer is kept in the game operating at full capacity, there is a serious threat of a bottleneck arising on the killing floors to cause a slowing down of marketing this fall.

Keeping the slaughterer in the game is not the responsibility of either the feedlot operator or the grower. This responsibility is on the Office of Price Administration, because the price control law makes it incumbent upon that agency to guarantee a margin for the processor. The fulfillment of this requirement is the uncertainty that concerns the industry most at present. The devices used, such as the Vinson directive and subsidy payments, have not proved adequate; consequently many lawsuits have been filed by packers and are now pending against the government.

To avoid lawsuits OPA is compelled under the law to manage the price con-

THE FOOD CONSUMPTION PICTURE (I) [U. S. — PER CIVILIAN]



PICTOGRAPH CORPORATION

trol system so as to allow a margin to the packing industry. To accomplish this purpose it has proposed to push the price down on the lower grades of cattle at a time when peak runs are inevitable on the markets this fall, which would demoralize the industry and very likely expose the whole stabilization program to discredit. Such a discredit would not be politically expedient, and such action would greatly curtail production and cause further loss of confidence by many who desire to produce all possible.

Seek a Solution

In an effort to find a solution and to get the feedlot operator back in the game and keep processors operating at full capacity, officials of the price section of the livestock division of OPA asked representatives of the industry several times to confer on methods to be employed. No agreement has been reached, and I am not in a position to tell you that there is a likelihood any will be reached. However, there is now a committee from the Joint Livestock Committee, of which F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, is a member, now in Washington conferring with OPA, WFA and the director of economic stabilization in the matter.

This committee is presenting data gathered from agriculture colleges of the five major feeding states and from practical feeders, relative to the factors which have prevented anything like

adequate feeding operations for the past year or two and which are now threatening to cause even more serious curtailment of feeding operations. These data show that the costs per 100 pounds of gain in every type of feedlot operation, regardless of age of the animal, has doubled since 1941. This does not include other elements essential to production of beef, yet cost of labor, material and supplies and equipment of every kind has advanced at least as much as feed.

The purpose of the committee is to present to OPA and WFA information to substantiate the reasons and the request for a small adjustment in the ceiling price of beef and a small adjustment in the price of hides. Such an adjustment in beef ceiling prices would require a corresponding adjustment in the range of prices packers could pay for cattle, for compliance purposes under the Vinson directive. The adjustment is to raise the price of the two top grades of wholesale beef.

The normal historical relationship between AA and B grades of cattle, and between A and B, was not taken into consideration when the Vinson directive was issued. This relationship, if used, would have AA grade at 135 per cent of B grade, while it would place A 117½ per cent of B.

To re-establish this normal historical relationship the maximum compliance price of AA grade cattle would be in-

creased from \$16 to \$17.50 per cwt., and the minimum price from \$15 to \$16.50, and the maximum price of A grade cattle from \$15.25 to \$15.50, and the minimum price from \$14.25 to \$14.50. Then these grades would be in normal relationship with the lower grades, particularly B grade.

The War Food Administration has urged a marketing program of 35,000,000 cattle this year, and any plan or device that tends to lower the price on these lower grades would work in opposition to this program and would result in a further increase in total cattle numbers instead of a reduction.

The simple plan of raising the price on hides by 3 cents and raising AA and A grade of wholesale meat slightly is the most practical and logical plan for reopening and bringing to capacity operation the feedlots of the country.

To do this will also relieve the pressure on OPA to manage prices to insure the processors a margin, and it will relieve the pressure on processing and storage facilities during the fall when grass cattle will be marketed in excessive numbers. Under this plan thousands of cattle will be moved into feedlots rather than sent directly to slaughtering plants.

Some plan must be put into effect to avoid gluts on the markets that might require cattle embargoes such as befell the hog producers.

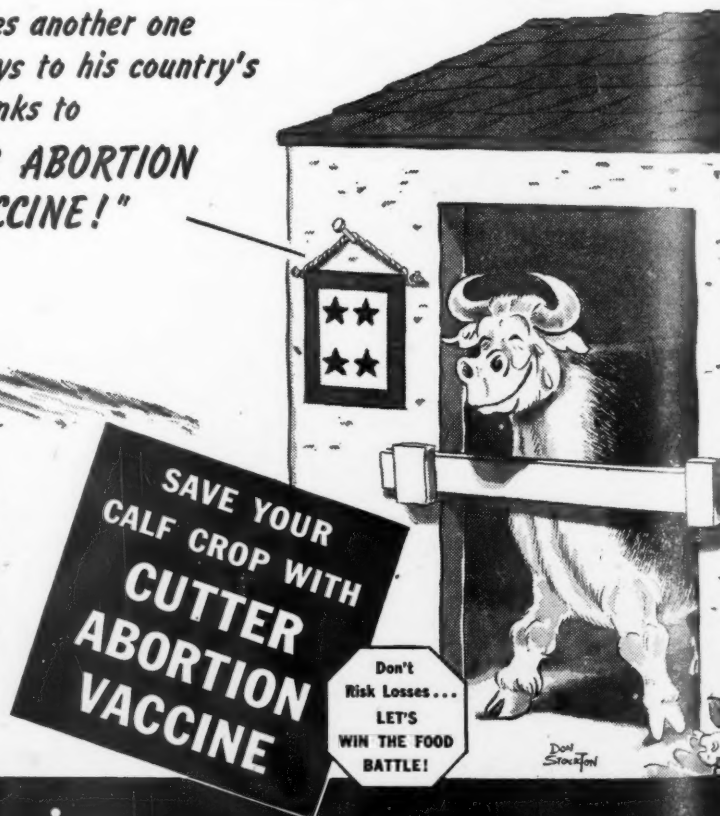
One factor contributing to the accumulation of the large numbers of cat-



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tle now on hand is the prospective demand for food for the starving peoples of Europe when peace comes. Our investigation forms a basis for conclusion that beef will not figure very largely in this program. Fats, cereals and beans will get the bulk of this call for food. If beef is used, in all likelihood South America will get the business, and the supply of mutton no doubt will come from Australia. Our post-war demand will be the same as our pre-war demand—entirely domestic.

WM. B. WRIGHT—

Following is a summarized version of an address delivered by William B. Wright, first vice-president of the American National, to the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association in annual convention at Jackson:

IN CONSIDERING OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS of attempting to meet wartime goals, I am sure we all agree that we may properly offer thanks and give much credit to that factor which more than any other has enabled us to get results from primary production; namely, beneficial climatic conditions. We recognize the source as being the great master, and not a factor subject to control of economic planning. In contemplating the situation, it is well to bear in mind that we have had an unprecedented number of favorable years and it is equally well to consider that a change is possible.

It seems apparent from my discussion with stockmen that we can also all agree that the whole chaotic situation relative to livestock and meat, which is not different from the balance of our food program, stems from two causes.

All of you are familiar with the first cause, which is the futile attempt of the livestock industry to try, insofar as consistent with over-all government policies, to give to government the benefit and cooperation of its specialized knowledge in presenting the meat management program.

As you know, the livestock industry, of course, does not presume to formulate over-all government policies. We attempted to suggest a program compatible with the techniques of meat production, processing, and merchandising. The program is still being dominated and controlled by theoretical planners.

Such theoretical control makes fairly simple matters complex, develops new and changing problems, and stimulates the planners to apply additional schemes and devices to correct problems developed by their manipulations.

The present situation seems to be one which is rapidly reducing itself to a proposition of face-saving for OPA, an opportunity for excessive profits to the packer and a penalizing of the range industry.

The second cause stems from a government policy which refuses to recognize a basic economic factor. Even in

times of war, prices are a cause and a result. Price affects production, consumption and distribution.

The price mechanism is an effective tool for changing the nation's economy from a peacetime to a wartime basis. During war, price is highly essential. First, to stimulate food production. Second, to shift a large part of industry from the production of civilian goods to armament. Third, to reduce the standard of living of civilians.

It has been stated "the price system is the thermostat of the national economy. To attempt to control inflation by means of price ceilings is like trying to cool a room by putting ice on a thermostat." Government price control merely transfers the conflict over prices, and adjustment between prices and rates of pay, from the economic to the political field.

In passing, may I direct your attention to some rather startling manpower figures. During the last war we had one civil public employee to each 153 men, women and children of our national population. In the latter thirties the ratio had gotten back to one to 200. Today the ratio is one to 41. Stating it another way, we have twice as many civil employees to each fighting man as during the last war. Within recent days the president has asked Congress for substantially increased appropriations for OPA. Such requests are always made on the basis of being for the people's good.

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Few laymen recognize, and I have sometimes wondered if stockmen, themselves, fully realize the importance of livestock to a nation and its food supply. We, as a nation, have a high living standard, due to our luxury foods, which accrue from livestock and their products. As a nation, we have much flexibility in our food supplies because of our livestock industry.

There are many nations that eat little or no meat, but due to our high living standards, and our extensively developed livestock industry, we have become accustomed to thinking of meat as an essential food commodity.

Current stocks of food adjust our day-to-day and month-to-month needs and supplies. Livestock adjusts our food supplies over periods of a year or two, and over decades. The nation lives

largely from hand to mouth, and depends upon current production for the bulk of its food. In 1939, at the time the surplus idea was being promoted, and based upon the then current consumption, our national food reserves were approximately as follows: Fats and oils sufficient for 90 days, eggs and dairy products, 6 days, fresh and cured meats, including poultry, 8 days, wheat, 52 days.

Since the problem of unstable production cannot be met by storing crops, it must be met in some other way. This is done by storing food in the form of livestock on the hoof. Livestock serves to condense, to refine and to store large quantities of cheap and bulky foods, to say nothing of natural vegetation, into small quantities of concentrated and expensive food, thus mak-

ing it available from six months to two or three years later.

Livestock numbers are increased after abundant crops and are liquidated in years of short supplies.

Since time immemorial, without subsidies, or other political expedients, livestock producers have operated an "ever-normal granary" in the form of livestock on the hoof. Livestock is usually the only feasible way of carrying excess food and harvesting the annual crop of natural vegetation. In this form, the food and vegetation thus harvested are immediately made available in time of need.

Therefore, a nation well-fortified with livestock never starves. On the other hand, for a nation with little livestock—China for example—a poor crop means starvation for many.

Grazing of cattle is one of the oldest occupations of man, dating from the earliest nomadic tribal herds referred to in the Bible, and coming down through the ages to the present grazing on our western ranges and pastures.

Viewed from the standpoint of conservation, appropriate utilization of raw material and a high yield per man unit of labor, our operation is the nation's most economical phase in the steps of meat production. It might be well for those who advocate the subservience of range livestock to wild life, the unwarranted extension of park and recreational areas at the expense of productive grazing lands, or the theoretical administration of such grazing lands, to explore the true potentials of our national meat supply as harvested from natural grasses.

Much has been said in recent years relative to the efficiency of the hog, in the use of grain as a meat producer. When hogs and cattle both spend their entire life cycles eating grain, hogs probably produce more pounds of meat and fat per pound of grain consumed. But the western ranges provide the better answer from the standpoint of national economy and meat production on limited grain supplies.

This meat is made available from the processing of natural vegetation by cattle. Such feeds, unless harvested, would be a wasted annual resource dissipated by fires, or eliminated through deterioration as the result of winter storms.

The 18 western states, primarily grass states, over a 10-year period have produced annually 62 per cent of our national beef supplies. We have today more cattle than ever before produced within the United States. We had, on Jan. 1, this year, an all-time high of better than 82 million head. This represents since 1934 an increase in beef cattle of 4 per cent in the 18 western states and a 40 per cent increase in the 8 Corn Belt states east of the Missouri River.

Following the drought of 1934, there was a series of good crop years; crop production per capita increased 43 per

WYOMING STOCKMEN MEET AT JACKSON

DIRECTING THE MAJOR PORTION of their efforts and attention to means of dealing with government handling of livestock administration matters, the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association met June 6-8 at Jackson. As Wm. B. Wright, vice-president of the American National, expressed it, the nation has a bear by the tail and is afraid to let go, as far as the federal food program is concerned.

In addressing himself to the stockgrowers' group, Clifford Hansen censured especially use of the Antiquities Act in enlarging a park which Congress had repeatedly refused to enlarge and he referred stormily to the "un-American methods used by the Park Service and the Department of the Interior" in creating the Jackson Hole national monument in direct contradiction of the intent of the congressional body.

Senator E. V. Robertson was unable to present his scheduled speech in person and it was read to the group on his behalf. Others featured in the program were: Charles A. Myers of Evanston; Mayor H. E. Clissold; Lloyd Vandeburg, Jackson Hole Cattle and Horse Association president; Robert O'Neil, Big Piney; Secretary Russell Thorp of Cheyenne; Alonzo Shreve, Wolf; Earl W. Carpenter of Denver; Edwin Patrick, Ogden; John R. Murphy, Sioux City, Ia.; John Smith, Idaho Falls, Ida.; Clyde Rogers of Torrington; Dr. G. H. Good, new state veterinarian at Cheyenne; and Frederick P. Champ, Logan, Utah; Bob Barthelmess, vice-president of Future Farmers of America, Olive, Mont.; F. E. Mollin, executive secretary of American National Live Stock Association, Denver; Aled P. Davies, American Meat Institute, Denver; Howard Matthews, of Swift & Co., Chicago; R. W. Clark, vice-president of Northern Pacific; Chas. Dunbar, Chicago, and Henry Weiler, of So. St. Paul, Minn.

All of the incumbent officers were returned to their posts in leadership of

the organization for another year. They are: George A. Cross, Dubois, president; Oda Mason, Laramie, vice-president; Alonzo Shreve, Wolf, treasurer; and Russell Thorp, Cheyenne, secretary and chief inspector.

Laramie was named the site of the 1945 convention.

The resolutions adopted by the convening stockmen voiced strong opposition to any and all subsidies or any price control measures not absolutely required for the prosecution of the war; disapproved of reciprocal trade agreements; endorsed the existing embargo on foot- and -mouth disease importations and recommended continued strict enforcement; petitioned Congress to transfer title of public lands within Wyoming into private ownership in an orderly manner to promote highest land use; approved enactment of Senate Bill 31 amending the Taylor Grazing Act; backed up Senator J. C. O'Mahoney and Nevada's Pat McCarran in efforts to abolish the so-called Antiquities Act of 1906 under which the President established the Jackson Hole monument; endorsed the resolutions of the Joint Livestock Committee in Chicago; commended the work of the National Livestock and Meat Board; urged the state game and fish commission to see that big game populations in every area of Wyoming be kept in balance with the winter feed supply available after private property rights and livestock needs have been fully considered; requested the WFA to continue the policy of setting aside 20 per cent of protein feeds for emergency use or increase the figure, if possible, to 30 per cent, and that Wyoming's quota be made available on or before Oct. 1; asked state legislature repeal of an 1897 law which gave federal government permission to buy lands in the state for public buildings, custom houses, arsenals, national cemeteries, or any other purposes—this last clause bringing about the resolution.

cent and livestock products 28 per cent. Meat changes approximately in the same proportion as crop production. It becomes apparent, therefore, that any control, whether artificial or otherwise, which affects crops, including natural vegetations, has its effect upon the meat supply.

As you recognize, the most efficient step in the process of meat production is that which is carried on by the feeder—the man who takes cultivated crops, cereals or proteins and converts them into finished beef.

We do not, under existing unbalance of cattle numbers and feed supplies, advocate long feeding, but emphasize the efficiency in meat production of the feeder's operation. To restrict the feeder's part of the production operation is to eliminate and waste the greatest potential meat supply we have, viewed from the standpoint of building up meat reserves and making maximum utilization of limited feed supplies.

Meat production is more than merely a problem of the number of cows or sows to be bred. When livestock numbers do not expand or contract in proportion to feed supplies, there is likely to be trouble. We have arrived at that point today.

In 1933, in the interests of economic planning, approached with a defeatist point of view, and mesmerizing ourselves by insulating our thoughts against proven economic phenomena, we slaughtered millions of pigs to keep them off the market. During the latter part of the 30's the nation curtailed the expansion of livestock by locking up grain under the ever-normal grain policy.

Recently, and because of the necessities and demands of war, the policy of abundance by scarcity has given way to a program of all-out agricultural production. Much emphasis has been put on production, but in fairness I wish to point out that there has been no official urging for increased numbers of cattle.

Cattle numbers increase when conditions are right. Conditions have been right in recent years. Demand has been accentuated by war with firm prices. Costs have arisen, and all operators, when feed conditions permit, respond to the desire to keep unit costs down by increasing numbers.

The shortage of protein feeds, like the shortage of meat, developed when prices were held artificially low, and consumption was stimulated. A similar policy was adopted for feed grains, with the same outcome.

On Jan. 12, 1942, OPA froze prices of corn, our most important feed grain. This encouraged the further expansion of livestock. As the ceiling prices on the high-protein feeds accelerated their disappearance, the ceiling price on corn has a similar effect on feed grains.

Within recent days, there has been a tight freeze upon all corn. Our problem now is more one of getting grain,

than the price of grain. Feedlot liquidation is being rapidly accelerated and replacements are not being made.

At the present time, the country is faced with abnormal supplies of livestock, based upon available feed reserves. Liquidation is bound to come and very probably the hard way in many areas, to say nothing of the loss of the potential supply of meat, undeveloped through the inoperation of the feed lot producer forced out of activity by uncertainties, ceiling prices on feeds and cattle, and a background of constantly changing policies which lend no basis upon which to plan a feeding operation.

Our first venture in regimentation was a mild fixing of prices, without reference to wages; next followed rationing; then subsidies and always more and more controls.

It would appear that the nation has a bear by the tail—and dares not let go, so long as the administrators distrust the individual economic judgment of its citizens.

The consumer's "food problem" has been the current shortage of meat and other highly prized foods, and while recent point modifications and a lifting of a portion of ration limitations will give some temporary relief, he will continue to get substantially less quality and in weeks hence he may find a very much tightened supply situation, particularly on the better grades of meat.

Present easing of meat restrictions is no doubt due to the fact that our cold-

storage holdings as of the middle of April exceeded our five-year average, 1939-43, by three times in beef, lamb and mutton and showed double the same average on pork.

Coupled with these large cold-storage holdings, is the recent tight corn freeze order, to which I have referred, and which will automatically force the remaining light supplies of cattle in the feedlots onto the market and may flood storage facilities unless meat is moved into consumer channels.

This immediate liquidation, as well as the impending liquidation which I have mentioned, which will come from the grass pasture acres, and from the ranges this fall, will be accompanied by immediate increased meat supplies. By many laymen this will be considered an increase in production and a cause for rejoicing.

As you know, the increased supplies will not be due to increased production; they will be due to premature and wasteful liquidation of feeder cattle through slaughter channels—the liquidation of the livestock man's "ever-normal granaries"—livestock on the hoof. The increasing meat supplies will be the forerunner of decreasing production.

We feel it highly important, because of unbalance between livestock numbers and feed reserves, plus the disturbance of normal flow of cattle through feedlots, that as many cattle as possible should be marketed, and as early as possible. Such marketing, of



Laying plans for a wild-horse roundup. The old-timer at the left was George Hillsbery of Worland, Wyo., well known as one of the early settlers of the Big Horn Basin. Kneeling on the ground is Cowpilot Bill Monday whose Ryan plane was known as the "Flying Boxcar" when it made newspaper headlines on its antelope ferrying missions to zoos throughout the country with "Antelope Charlie" Belden. (Belden photo.)

course, will have to be consistent with good husbandry, operating balance of each individual outfit and local climatic conditions.

It should be kept in mind that we have written and recorded declarations of policy by both the Forest Service and the Grazing Service, that reductions in livestock numbers brought

about by impacts of war goals or marketing programs will not prejudice existing grazing privileges.

We feel confident that the stockman can rely upon these declarations and that he will not suffer later in permitted use by now reducing his herd.

It should be remembered that the processors have labor shortages like

ourselves, and that large market runs may precipitate serious difficulties and even prevent the handling of some cattle unless the stockmen plan to market as early as physically possible and consistent with the maximum fleshing of their cattle on their available feed.

If there is any way to perform early culling of herds, it should be done. If there is any chance to increase the fleshing of the cattle proposed to be marketed without endangering necessary carryover feed reserves, that also should, of course, be done.

Within the next several weeks, various government agencies will be emphasizing the necessities of increased marketings. We concur in, and endorse, the necessity of such a policy in the interest of the future welfare of the industry. This marketing policy is consistent with what we have been advocating.

We still feel, naturally, the proper and efficient route for range cattle to be through the feedlot. We are, however, unable to go back and correct a situation which has developed through the short-sighted national food program dominated by theoretical planners.

Many stockmen feel that demand will be kept firm by necessities for export to war-torn countries. This feeling was well initiated when in 1941 we were advised in Washington that there would be substantial post-war demands from Europe for not only meat products but breeding stock as well.

Today, in Washington, we are advised there are no demands for meat abroad in either Africa or reconquered Italy. From representatives of the English food commission we are advised the day an armistice is signed England will be prepared to ship us choice breeding stock. It seems apparent an extended export market should not be relied upon to support demand for our product.

It has been my impression that during recent years the western cattleman has had the good judgment to reduce his cattle indebtedness. In many situations I believe he has, as far as possible and consistent with tax deductions, reduced land indebtedness as well. I trust that the Wyoming stockman is no exception and that he has fortified himself against the impacts of post-war adjustments.

When it comes to the matter of post-war planning, I insist that a premise from which to start must be good government. Such government can only be attained by people's representatives, with sufficient courage and statesmanship to insist upon government of the people, for the people, and by the people. Government for the people means individual liberty paramount.

Wars are not won unless a victorious nation can resume the usual mode of living which they fought to defend. Our returning soldiers have a right to expect and demand this as fruits of their military successes.

SIXTIETH MONTANA CONVENTION

THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION of the Montana Stockgrowers' Association was called to order May 25 at Miles City, scene of the founding convention in 1885. The 700 delegates who came from all parts of the state to



J. R. Miller

attend unanimously elected J. R. Miller of Lodge Grass to the presidency. W. P. Sullivan of Square Butte was elected vice-president and C. K. Warren of Deer Lodge, second vice-president. Retiring President George M. Mungas of Philipsburg in opening the meeting stated that in common with every other industry in the country, the stockmen must face

the issue of conversion from war to peace.

Secretary F. E. Mollin of the American National Live Stock Association at Denver declared that government regulation of the cattle industry had been prevented longer than had been thought possible, but that "doesn't make it any more welcome now," and he felt that such regulation should be arrested. The subsidy-rollback program he described as a "purely political objective without regard to the effect on our great industry." Dr. W. J. Butler, state veterinarian, spoke optimistically of the excellent condition of cattle in the state and pointed to the importance of giving the best possible food to cattle, as a means of providing the best possible food for the human family in turn. The talk delivered by Governor Sam Ford was concentrated on the rivers and harbors bill, in connection with which he emphasized that "Montana has a prior right to the use of waters originating within her boundaries." A round-table discussion on "Range and Range Livestock Research" was led by M. C. Simpson of Miles City. Another discussion, "Problems of Montana Livestock Producers," was headed by W. A. D'Ewart of Wilsall. Packing plant and government officials from Washington, Chicago and other points participated. "Ranch Labor Problems" were discussed under the chairmanship of R. E. Bodley of Bozeman.

Other addresses heard by the assem-

bled stockmen included those of Burton Brewster of the AAA office in Bozeman; Vice-President C. G. Clark of the Northern Pacific Railroad, and Paul Orcutt, state livestock specialist at Montana State College.

The following association members were named to the board of directors: Ralph Selkirk, Fishtail; State Senator Wesley A. D'Ewart, Wilsall; Mark Clemow, Jackson. Re-elected directors are W. A. White, Hinsdale; Milton Simpson, Volborg; F. L. Stone, Gallatin Gateway. Site of the 1945 convention will be chosen by this board at a later date.

In the week before the convention, the dry ranges and wheat fields of Montana were afforded some relief when light to heavy rains, measuring more than an inch in some cases, fell in the state. The heaviest precipitation was in the southwestern and southeastern portions of the state. Range conditions had become particularly serious in northern Montana, and the north-central section which had been threatened with drought for several weeks received enough rainfall to bring encouragement to worried ranchers.

Members pledged their efforts to "assure beef supply for the nation" and expressed the association's willingness to "make any necessary sacrifice to assure victory in order to preserve liberty and freedom in and for the nation." Further subjects taken up in the resolutions stated it should be the duty of Congress to recognize the rights and interests of the states in determining development of watersheds within their borders; that Montana's congressional delegation should insure the maintenance of the sanitary embargo; expressed endorsement of the McCarran forest bill; opposed subsidies and rollbacks and urged discontinuance of such programs; asked Congress again to assume the responsibility for lawmaking; recommended an amendment of existing laws pertaining to licenses for operation of livestock markets to give the state livestock commission discretionary powers, and suggested that meat rationing be halted to insure faster consumption. The group expressed its opposition to the Murray-Wagner-Dingell bill with the declaration that "we demand the right to continue to provide our own social security through our individual efforts." Also held in disfavor were the plowing of grass lands and loans for such operations.

The Cattle Outlook

By F. E. MOLLIN

(The following is the substance of talks made by Mr. Mollin before state cattle association conventions, particularly in the Northwest.)

DURING THE PAST YEAR, I regret to say, we have witnessed a steady trend toward government regulation of our industry. We have staved it off longer than we had dared to hope, but that does not make it any more welcome now. We recognize the need of price control for the duration, but many needless and costly experiments have been tried, some, such as the subsidy-roll-back program, with a purely political objective and without regard to the effect on our great industry.

There has been much talk about pressure groups trying to upset the price control program, but it is largely talk. No one wants inflation, and the stock charge that anyone who dares oppose any bureaucratic edict is seeking to promote inflation is getting worn pretty thin.

In the case of the cattle industry no effort has been made to boost the beef ceilings established on Dec. 16, 1942, although corn ceilings have been raised twice since that time, concentrates have advanced \$10 to \$12 per ton and similar increases have taken place in almost every item—labor, materials, supplies, etc., involved in the production of cattle and the process of fattening them for the market.

Meat production has been on a large scale since the start of the war. Probably never before in the history of the country did the cycle of production of all three species—cattle, hogs and sheep—approach its peak at approximately the same time. But feed production, unwisely restrained by AAA for too long a period, has not kept pace with this expansion in livestock numbers and the problem now ahead of us is to undertake a moderate program of liquidation, handling it in such fashion as to produce the maximum amount of beef in the process. Heavy marketing of grass-fat animals, larger numbers moved through the Corn Belt feedlots for shorter periods of finishing should be the program this fall.

One of the things which the administration could and should do is to discontinue the subsidy-rollback program at the earliest possible moment and put beef ceilings at the level of a year ago—just before that program went into effect. Today it is a threat to our industry which could easily develop into a major disaster. If the packer-consumer subsidies are continued for the duration and then suddenly stopped on the demand of a tax-weary public, cattle prices will immediately drop and the industry could easily go into a tailspin. It is grossly unfair to the industry to

continue to pay an unneeded consumer subsidy at such great risk to us.

Packer Prices

There has been concern over a disastrous break in prices when the big runs come. Feeders' prices and supply will of course adjust themselves to the demand. Packer prices for grass-fat cattle should be well maintained so long as beef continues to sell at ceiling levels. There is no reason why packers should take unduly wide margins, no matter how heavy the receipts, if the demand continues to be, as at present, in excess of the supply. Packer profits as shown by their year-end reports, plus the fact that packers are generally qualifying for the subsidy payments provided for in the Vinson cattle stabiliza-

tion order, testify to the fact that the present basis must be quite profitable to them on the whole.

There has been considerable pressure brought to do away with meat rationing. In the case of pork there has been no real need of rationing for some months past, and points were reduced to low levels. Further adjustments on May 1 gave recognition to the continued heavy runs of cattle and hogs induced by the corn freeze order. Then suddenly, apparently ordered for some purpose unrelated to our industry, all meats except beefsteaks and roasts were put on the point-free basis. This prejudices the sale of such beef, particularly of the lower grades, and it is doubtful if such a lopsided system can long be maintained. If OPA drops also the lower grades from



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the ration list, the question then will be whether meat supplies can be maintained at a volume that will make further rationing unnecessary. We should recognize the fact that the main purpose of rationing is to secure equitable distribution of the available product and that it is to our interest to have such equitable distribution. Taking meat off the ration list does not automatically increase the supply and consumers will raise more fuss about scarcity of an un-

rationed product than otherwise. It's up to the industry to keep up volume, or we can expect another try at rationing later on.

Post-War Problems

One of the factors contributing to the accumulation of the large numbers of cattle now on hand—approximately 82,200,000 head as of Jan. 1, 1944—is the loose talk about the prospective demands for food for feeding occupied Europe

when peace comes. Close study of this question leaves no ground for the notion that beef will figure in this program. Fats, cereals and beans will get the bulk of the call for food. We must reconcile ourselves to the idea that our post-war demand will be the same as the pre-war, entirely domestic. With that thought in mind cattle numbers during the next three years should be reduced to less than 75,000,000 head.

Concern is often expressed over the possibility of dressed beef imports from South America after the war. Three circumstances operate to make such importation quite unlikely: First, the established fact that all the main cattle producing sections of Argentina are, or have been in recent years, infected with foot-and-mouth disease; second, the fact that Argentina is in the doghouse at Washington because of its pro-Nazi attitude—there is no reason to grant her any favors while the memory of the war lingers; third, our own supply of cattle is more than adequate for any normal peacetime demands.

There are indications that things are shaping up for a major fight on the tariff issue when the war is over. It may be delayed a year or two, long enough to demonstrate the fact that American standards of living, American wage and price levels, cannot be maintained without a reasonable degree of tariff protection. It is doubtful if our efficiency of production—mass production methods, inventive genius, etc.—can take up as much of the difference in costs of production as formerly. If not, then it becomes a question of how far we wish to go in the policy long advocated by Vice-President Wallace of raising living standards of other peoples to our own levels through tariff reductions which in practical effect means lowering our own standards.

It is my thought that the nation will not wish to go far in this direction and that the issue will be drawn very shortly.

Most of the wartime controls are due to expire quickly after the end of the war. Some of the bureaucrats have unwisely publicized reports that these controls would continue much longer than that. Doubtless they would continue forever if they had their way. But the people are already weary of them and I venture the prediction that we will get rid of the subsidies, price controls, rollbacks, quotas, set-asides and other regulations too numerous to mention in a jiffy. The readjustment period will be difficult enough without them.

That strenuous years lie ahead no one will deny. We will need clear heads, stout hearts, sound, well financed organizations and a little less government, if you please, if we are to come through as we must and will. So let's all pull together to win the war and to adjust our industry as quickly as possible to a peacetime basis. The outlook could be worse than it is. Careful preparation now will do much to ease the blows that cannot well be avoided.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

SOUTH DAKOTA MEETING

DESPITE TRAVEL DIFFICULTIES and labor shortages, a state-wide representation of South Dakota livestock producers attended the 53rd annual convention of the South Dakota Stock Growers' Association June 12 and 13 in Rapid City. With all delegates signifying approval, it was decided that following this year's second streamlined business meeting, subsequent annual assemblies would be in the form of regular conventions, to be called at other towns in the inspection area.

Following an invocation by Father O'Connel, a welcoming address was given by Frank Marion, president of the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce, with a response by Ernest B. Ham, association past president.

The group re-elected Claude Olson to another term in the presidency, and Baxter Berry to the vice-presidency. Four new executive board members were named: Frank Trole, Fort Pierre; John Sutton, Agar; J. A. Larson, Belle Fourche; H. A. Twito, Watauga. One of these four will be appointed to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Andrew Johnston after 30 years of service on the board. A 1942 change in the by-laws of the organization determined that no executive board member could succeed himself beyond the five-year term.

Numbered among speakers brought to Rapid City for the occasion was Dr. W. M. Curtiss, associate professor of marketing at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., who was invited to address the South Dakota convention after addressing the American National meeting at Denver in January. His subject was "Agriculture in the Post-War Period." B. H. Heide, secretary of the International Livestock Exposition, outlined livestock show plans for this year.

I. B. Johnson, director of the state experiment stations, reported on the activities of the past year in cattle feeding experiments. President Jackson of the State College; Lieutenant-Governor A. C. Miller; H. G. Gramlich, general agricultural agent for the C. & N. W. Railway Company, and A. P. Davies of the American Meat Institute addressed attentive convention audiences in the course of the two-day meeting.

The speech of President A. D. Brown-

field of the National described the work the association is doing in Washington with a view to relieving the marketing situation for the coming shipping season; it touched also upon the number of cattle to be slaughtered this year in order that the nation may be able to maintain a normal supply. A final address listed on the program was that of Elgin B. Coacher of the Rapid City Air Base; it concerned the work of the American Red Cross in behalf of war prisoners, the use of blood plasma, home service courses and field relief work.

In resolutions adopted, the stock growers opposed further inflation but urged adjustment of beef ceiling prices in accordance with increased production costs; recommended orderly buying of corn by war material processors instead of a corn freeze; complimented the administration of the synthetic rubber program and commended the fine transportation work of the railroads in wartime; advocated efficient and prompt allocation of protein concentrates; urged continued vigilance in connection with maintenance of the sanitary embargo; asked for establishment of a municipal slaughtering and marketing system to allow proper allocation of meat to workers in the large cities; requested WPB to take immediate action toward supplying of hay tools, ranch machinery and windmills; recommended more equitable distribution of the income tax burden; urged consideration by the Selective Service and ration boards of the needs of men in agricultural production; commended the work of the National Live Stock Tax Committee on behalf of the industry's tax problems.

They protested the loose thinking of responsible officials who in the name of the war emergency would seek to make impractical dietary changes; commended the work of South Dakota's senators and congressmen in representing the livestock industry; endorsed the McCarran Bill S. 1867; voiced strong opposition to subsidies in any form; endorsed the action of the Joint Livestock Committee at Chicago; recommended passage of Senate Bill 1794; and expressed disapproval of granting to the executive branch of the government the right to make treaties and trade agreements with foreign countries without consent of the Senate.

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Colorado Convention

THE ANNUAL CONVENTION AT Canon City June 8 and 9 of the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association attracted an attendance of some 500 persons intent on the problems of high livestock numbers, OPA restrictions, feed shortages and other, similar matters. They were given an insight by retiring President Charles P. Murphy of Spicer into the improvements made in the past year in livestock laws of the state and heard him urgently reiterate the recommendation that OPA restrictions be further slashed. He also expressed the fear that with the present labor situation—because of the boys taken off the farms and ranches—"it is not likely that we can harvest more than three-fourths of our hay for winter feeding."



Dr. B. F. Davis

John T. Caine III of Denver, the general manager of the National Western Stock Show, pictured the benefits to be derived from early, orderly livestock marketings and he employed graphs in showing how to avoid the disastrous results which followed the last war.

R. C. Pollock, general manager of the National Livestock and Meat Board at Chicago, said that "more than 4,000,000,000 pounds of meat have been allocated for our fighting men this year, which will supply about six pounds of meat per

week per man." He told how the board's staff of meat specialists is conducting meat programs at army posts and naval bases throughout the country, giving instructions in cutting, cooking, carving and conservation of meat.

A. A. Smith of Sterling, Colo., represented the American National at the meeting and spoke of activities of the National Livestock Tax Committee and of the national organization. He expressed the belief that most difficulties being encountered are "government-made," and required "intelligent handling."

J. J. Drinkard, Denver commission man and ranch owner, spoke in an optimistic vein in pointing out that even though the cattle population of the country now stands at an all-time high, cattle and hog numbers per 1,000 population were less on Jan. 1, 1944, than on the same date in 1918.

Also included on the roster of speakers were David F. Costello, forest ecologist of Ft. Collins, recommending early range cattle marketing and moderate stocking of the range; Earl Brown of Denver, state brand commissioner; Roy M. Green, president of the Colorado State College of Agriculture at Ft. Collins; George M. Bull, Colorado director of OPA, Denver; Charles W. Lilley, acting state supervisor, Office of Food Distribution, Denver; George E. Weaver, range conservationist, A. A. Agency, Ft. Collins; and Lyle G. Watts, chief of the Forest Service.

In the closing session the delegates elevated Frank Fehling of Nathrop to the presidency; he had previously served as vice-president. George S. Green of Golden was reelected treasurer; Neil M. Andrews of Gunnison was named vice-president; and Dr. B. F. Davis of Denver was chosen for the 21st time to be the association's secretary.

In a series of resolutions addressed at least in part to the evil of "White House directives," the assembled stockmen called upon Congress to reassert itself; they opposed national subsidies of any description and requested removal of point requirements on beef while approving extension of the OPA for a year. In another resolution reduction of non-essential government expenditures and a sensible control of war costs were recommended; consolidation of national forests without public hearings for those interested was the object of the group's condemnation following a Forest Service proposal for merging the White River National Forest into the Holy Cross National Forest despite strong opposition.

The stockmen urged, also, reductions in the number of deer and elk on the national forest and public domain, and suggested Congress explore the feasibility of revising income tax laws that will permit establishment of sinking funds to leave individual and corporate taxpayers free from paying taxes on cash receipts that would ordinarily be expended on

essential repairs; asked the administration to cooperate more closely with the livestock and meat industry or accept full responsibility for any developing shortages; assailed the program of price rollbacks; urged greater care in government investigations of anti-trust charges; pledged cooperation to the railroads; desired legal status for forest and advisory boards and approved Senate Bill 1867 relating to national forest grazing lands; urged passage of Senate Bill 1794 providing preference for former owners in repurchase of lands acquired for national defense or war purposes when the government sells them in the future; asked that local livestock men be consulted about state land exchanges under Section 8 of the Taylor Grazing Act.

Meeker has been selected as the 1945 convention city.

Washington Meeting

By Walter Tolman

THE MOST OUTSTANDING ANNUAL meeting in the history of the Washington Cattlemen's Association was held at Okanogan, May 19-20, where more than 400 cattlemen from all parts of the state were in attendance at the business meeting and about 800 stockmen and friends took part in the "cowboy breakfast" which opened the convention.

The program was outstanding for the discussion of stockmen's problems by stockmen themselves. Twelve leading cattlemen of the state appeared on the program to talk on cattle feeding, range management, cattle horses, cattle lice control, brand inspection, legislation and other subjects. Perhaps the outstanding talk of the convention was a stirring appeal by Jack Crawford, Yakima, for the independence of government control traditional to America.

National livestock problems were reviewed by Executive Secretary F. E. Mollin of the American National Live Stock Association, Denver. S. H. Steen, Seattle; E. N. Wentworth, Armour & Co., Chicago; Herb Merman, head buyer of Armour & Co., Spokane, and W. A. Coon, head meat man of Armour & Co., Spokane, collaborated in a discussion of

Farm Mechanization

How extensive will be the mechanization of farms after the present war? Grover J. Sims of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics answers this question in *Agricultural Situation*: "This is still unpredictable, but the trend is evident. There will be a more widespread use of all types of mechanical power on farms. Low horsepower units will be developed to take the place of horses on the cultivator and other light draft jobs. The decrease in motive power on farms brought about by a reduction in horse and mule numbers will be replaced largely by tractors. Colts raised this year will not be able to work until at least 1948. Once farmers have purchased tractors, equipped them with farm tools that are made for tractors, they will be reluctant to use horses and mules again. Numbers of horses and mules will decrease even more and so the horse and mule will not occupy such a high place in our farm economy as they do today."

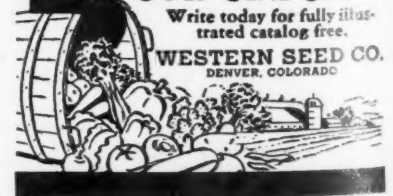
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the several phases of grading, showing picture slides to illustrate their talk. Other speakers included Dr. E. C. McCullough, Pullman, J. B. Prevott, regional OPA office, Spokane, and Gene Ensminger, head of the department of animal husbandry, Pullman.

The financial condition of the association and the interest of its membership have greatly improved under a new membership policy which assesses cattlemen on the basis of 5 cents per year on each animal owned.

Recreation was provided for the visiting cattlemen by the "cowboy breakfast," a banquet and horse racing, honors in the latter event going to Jidge Tippet and Wallace Halsey of Asotin who challenged and defeated Okanogan County cattlemen in two races.

The annual meeting next year will be at Toppenish, which is a cattle fattening area surrounded by excellent range country.

Carl Greif, Uniontown, was elected president; Walter Schrock, Okanogan; William Bennett, Winona; Alan Rogers, Ellensburg; Jidge Tippet, Asotin, vice-presidents; and Walter Tolman, Pullman, secretary-treasurer. Directors are Walter Rowe, Toppenish; Rufus Schnebly, Ellensburg; Robert French, Okanogan; Kenneth Robinson, Pomeroy; Herbert Beckley, Benge; P. R. Gladhart, Spokane; C. W. Haun, Colville; Ray Lamp, Harrington; John H. Melville, Sprague; Tim Bernard, Tonasket; Ed Flanagan, Wapato; Russell Kreps, White Salmon; Ross Woodard, Loomis; Wallace Halsey, Asotin, and Fred Magin, Rocklyn.

Listed below are resolutions adopted by the Washington cattlemen:

Asking repeal of fire patrol assessment law and that the expense of fire patrol be paid from the state treasury funds;

Asking that all meats be placed on a point-free basis;

Offering \$100 reward for arrest and conviction of anyone stealing cattle from an "assured" member of the association;

Appreciating work of Association Secretary Walter Tolman;

Favoring H.R. 4184 to repeal the land grant rate laws;

Opposing the subsidy-rollback regulations;

Favoring reasonable tariff to equalize difference in cost of production in this and foreign countries;

Opposing modification of present sanitary embargo applying to countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists;

Endorsing S.B. 1867 providing for creation of local forest advisory boards;

Recommending discontinuance of benefit payments under AAA for soil conservation and range improvement practices;

Asking Selective Service to recognize the critical need for manpower on farms and in processing plants;

Asking that the matter of advertising and selling of estrays be taken out of the county auditor's office and placed in the sheriff's office;

Favoring a state meat inspection law;

Recommending a revitalized management for the State College of Agriculture so the college may attain rank among the foremost of the nation;

Asking that 50 per cent of national forest grazing fees be turned over for range improvement use;

Asking modification of the state's bounty law and that a division of predatory animal control be set up.

Nebraska Meeting

Irwin Adamson, Cody, was elected president of the Nebraska Stock Growers' Association at the 55th annual convention of that organization at Scottsbluff June 8-10, succeeding E. H. Boyd, Alliance. Chris J. Abbott, Hyannis, was named vice-president. Much of the convention talk centered on government regulations with criticisms. President Boyd said, "The strongest criticism of the present federal program is the Office of Price Administration's failure to recognize the important place the cattle feeder occupies in the production of good beef. Range cattle are chiefly feeders and not fat killer stock." Feeders, he said, are not buying beef because price ceilings were fixed at a time when feed and labor were all much cheaper than at present.

Following the report of Secretary-Treasurer W. A. Johnson on work and conditions of the association were addresses by three juniors—Robert Messersmith, Alliance; Lester Jesse, Alliance; and Odeth Huffman, Tryon. Earl Monahan, Hyannis, reported on the National

Live Stock Tax Committee recently formed as a watchdog in income tax problems of the industry. Other speakers included Dr. E. W. Sheets, assistant to the master of the National Grange, Washington, D. C., and L. R. Capron, vice-president of the C. B. & Q. Railroad, Chicago, who asked for cooperation of shippers in helping to move livestock. He suggested spreading of loading through the season and over the days of the week; ordering cars as far in advance as possible; avoiding change in loading dates, loading to full capacity; helping to keep trains on schedule.

Prof. Marvel L. Baker of the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture suggested to the cattlemen that the present is a favorable time to begin keeping livestock numbers in control, a question touched on by many of the speakers. Dr. W. T. Spencer, Omaha, spoke on the work of the National Live Stock Loss Prevention Board; P. O. Wilson, secretary of the Joint Livestock Committee and manager of the National Live Stock Producers' Association, told of the effort to right some of the wrongs that government regulations have brought to the industry.

Chris J. Abbott, Hyannis, said that the demand for feeder stock next fall probably would be greater than is now anticipated. E. G. Hinton, manager of the Armour Packing Plant at Omaha, suggested the possibility of cuts in the volume of livestock slaughter if ceilings are not put on a fair basis and if labor shortages are not relieved.

A. D. Brownfield, president of the American National Live Stock Association, told the stockmen of the efforts of various livestock committees to have government regulations adjusted to take care of an expected heavy fall run of

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cattle. Mr. Brownfield has spent considerable time in conference with government officials and other livestock leaders during the past several months.

Others speakers were Harry Coffee, president of the Omaha Union Stock Yards, Omaha; Gilbert Gusler of the meat section of the OPA, Washington, D. C.; Congressman Dr. A. L. Miller; Delos L. James, manager, agricultural

committee of the United States Chamber of Commerce; Governor Dwight Griswold; and R. C. Pollock, secretary and general manager of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, Chicago.

The delegates decided to meet at O'Neill next year.

The Nebraska cattlemen said that either livestock production and feeding costs must be held down or ceilings must

be adjusted upward to reflect present costs. The cattlemen also adopted the following resolutions:

Opposing subsidies but insisting that if they are continued they should go to producers and not processors;

Opposing inflation but urging adjustment of ceiling prices in line with increased cost of production;

Urging release of more straight unmixed cottonseed, linseed and soybean meal;

Urging withdrawal after the war of the President's authority to make trade agreements;

Protesting against government by directive and urging Congress again to assume responsibility for making of laws;

Favoring continuation of sanitary embargoes;

Urging the War Production Board to take action in supplying needed farm and ranch tools, wire, etc.;

Protesting against a trend in government representatives of talking against meat and in favor of cereals;

Endorsing S.B.1867 providing for creation of local forest advisory boards;

Commending the railroads for transportation efficiency.

Other resolutions asked the return of standard time at the earliest possible date, asked the government to make further appointments to the Nebraska Brand Committee from recommendations by the executive council of the association and requested laws enabling the state to contract brand inspection work to the Nebraska Stock Growers' Association. The stockmen commended the National Live Stock Tax Committee, recently set up to inquire into income tax matters affecting the industry, and commended the efforts of members of Nebraska's congressional delegation in behalf of stockmen.

Europe's Food Prospects

The Department of Agriculture's office of foreign agricultural relations finds that the 1944-45 food outlook in Europe is by no means favorable to the Axis. It is understandable that crop production should feel the cumulative effect over the war years of shortages in agriculture manpower, fertilizers, draft power, farm equipment and machinery; but in addition to this the impact of military operations on production and transportation activities in general may have a telling effect on food supplies there during the coming year. A recent release declares that although food consumption on the continent generally, exclusive of Russia, has been maintained at between 85 and 90 per cent of pre-war figures, millions of people are being forced to exist on as little as three-fourths, two-thirds, and even less, of their pre-war living standards.

North Dakota Convention

DICKINSON, N. D., PLAYED HOST to about 500 members of the North Dakota Stockmen's Association, in annual meeting June 9 and 10 to hear and take part in discussions for handling the particular wartime problems confront-



Don L. Short



L. E. Arndt

ing ranchers and farmers. The entire list of the association's officials was re-elected as follows: President, Don L. Short, Medora; vice-president, Angus Kennedy, Watford City; directors: J. L. Connolly, Dunn Center; John H. Hanson, Bowman; P. M. Schultz, Townner; Eugene Wachter, Bismarck. L. E. Arndt of Minot was re-appointed secretary-treasurer for another year.

The welcoming address of Mayor Ward Johnson was responded to by Director George Robinson of Coleharbor, after which the annual message of the president and the report of Secretary Arndt were given. Recommended in the secretary's report was the organization of a junior livestock association at the next convention.

Speakers appearing on the convention program then included Aled P. Davies of the American Meat Institute, Chicago; Dr. J. H. Longwell for the experimental station at the North Dakota Agricultural College; Dr. T. O. Brandenberg, state veterinarian; and at Saturday morning's session, President A. D. Brownfield of the American National who spoke of the national group's activities on behalf of the livestock industry.

Further addresses were made by Miss Blanche Stevens, a field worker for the American Red Cross, and Dr. W. M. Curtiss, associate professor of marketing at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. In meeting Saturday afternoon, the board of directors took up matters con-

cerning the brand inspection service. D. V. Wheeler of Solen was named to the advisory council, replacing Ralph K. Welch of Fargo; all other members of the council were re-appointed for the coming year.

The group voted unanimous acceptance of an invitation extended by the Minot Association of Commerce that the next annual meeting of the association be held at Minot.

Resolutions adopted by the delegates asked the CCC to take steps to make available supplies of concentrated protein feeds to the state's livestock producers during the fall; urged discontinuance of meatless days to quicken orderly marketing and movement of surplus meat supplies; urged state and federal aid in getting the best supply of labor possible under existing conditions; requested WPB to make steel available to manufacture necessary machinery for seasonal use; opposed any increase in local or state taxes; strongly reiterated the stand against modifying the foot-and-mouth embargo; recommended reductions in governmental expenses, and overlapping agencies; protested establishment, by executive order or otherwise, of national parks or monuments and recommended that unused park lands be leased under long-term grazing agreements to stock producers or organized grazing associations in the vicinity; urged unification of sanitary regulations among the various state livestock sanitary boards; urged producers to cull herds; favored establishment of the Smith-Hughes agricultural teachings in high school departments of Dickinson State Teachers' College and Minot State Teachers' College; endorsed the policies and resolutions adopted by the Joint Livestock Committee at Chicago on May 25 in approving extension of the price control act for a year and denouncing the subsidy and rollback program; recommended that SCS develop grazing areas at present unsuitable for use because of lack of water supplies, fences, etc., to permit full utilization of such lands.

The resolutions, in addition, commended the state water commission for its endeavors in developing a program of water conservation and irrigation and expressed unalterable opposition to the construction of the Garrison dam as proposed by the Pick plan; also commended officers of the national organization.

Association Notes

The California Cattlemen's Association has recently paid rewards totaling \$200 for information and assistance furnished by three men to bring about the arrest and conviction of John Bontadelli, Tulare County, on a charge of cattle stealing. Bontadelli confessed to the theft of nearly 40 animals. A few of these he had sold and butchered, but around 33 head were recovered and returned to 15 different owners. In announcing payment of the rewards, offered in all cases involving cattle belonging to association members, Secretary Dan C. McKinney of the California organization declared the practice is resulting in a discouragement of illegal wartime stock activities and of black market beef operations.

H. H. Fogg, Doyleville, Colo., and Sheldon Trampe were re-elected president and secretary, respectively, of the Gunnison County Stock Growers' Association at a recent meeting at Gunnison, Colo. James Buffington, vice-president, and W. W. McKee, treasurer, were also re-elected.

Although for the first time in history of Stockmen's Protective Association of Alameda and San Joaquin counties, (Cal.) President John McGlinchey and Secretary John Callaghan could not be present for the May 21 meeting, both of the absentees were unanimously re-elected to the offices they have held for 41 consecutive years. Vice-president Hugh Walker presided at the convention and Judge Clark was acting secretary. Ernest Wente delivered the treasurer's report and all officers were unanimously re-elected. Among speakers heard by the delegates were Secretary Dan McKinney of the California Cattlemen's Association; Secretary Earl D. Schlaman of the Pacific States Livestock Marketing Association; Dr. C. U. Duckworth, and numerous others.

The National Livestock Exchange plans to hold its 1945 convention in Denver if wartime travel restrictions permit. Recent national meeting of the exchange was held at St. Paul, Minn.

North Park Stock Growers' Association members meeting at Walden, Colo., requested that representation on the State Board of Land Commissioners be given stockmen, as they lease the greater part of state-owned lands. They also endorsed S.B. 1867, providing for local forest advisory boards, commended railroads for their efficiency, and asked members to support the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association and the American National. Other resolutions requested the removal of all meat rationing restrictions and urged as a post-war re-employment plan the earmarking of part of earnings for use on

postponed repairs, replacements, etc. Harry Wattenberg was elected president, to be assisted by John A. Peterson. F. G. Carlson was renamed secretary-treasurer.

Sam R. McKelvie, was named president of the Sandhills Feeder Cattle Producers group which held a business session at the time of the Scottsbluff, Neb., convention of the Nebraska Stock Growers' Association. Thomas F. Arnold was elected vice-president, P. C. Shockley, secretary, Ralph A. Baker, treasurer and Harry Williams, fieldman.

Among speakers at the convention of the Cochise-Graham Cattle Growers' Association at Wilcox, Ariz., recently were A. D. Brownfield, Deming, N. M., president of the American National Live Stock Association; Norman Fain, president of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association; Dr. Atkinson, president of the University of Arizona; A. F. Morarity, state director of post-war planning; Frank Sproul, Douglas; Frank S. Boice, former president of the American National, Sonoita, and O. C. Williams of the state land department. Jesse Williams, San Simon, was elected president of the organization. Vice-presidents are Frank Sproul, Douglas, and A. R. Spikes, Bowie.

Junior officers elected at a meeting of the junior Cochise-Graham organization are Jack Post, Benson, president; Bob Krentz, vice-president; Cordy Cowel, Douglas, secretary and Nelson Stephens, Hereford, treasurer. Advisors to the juniors are Del Stauffer, Wilcox, and Mrs. Hunt, Bisbee.

In May PRODUCER we reported that the South Central Junior Cattle Growers' Association contributed \$10 to the National Juniors' organization. The amount was a mistake. It should have been \$100, we are advised by Betty Lo Aiken, Chino Valley, Arizona, who is active in junior groups.

No Pasture Or Grain

In a series of feed trials conducted at Clewiston, Fla., cattle have for the first time in history been "finished" for market without the use of pasture or any grain whatsoever. In the course of four trials operated by the United States Sugar Corporation, over periods of from 100 to 130 days, cattle fed on a non-grain diet averaged gains from 1.95 to 2.48 pounds daily. The major portion of the diet was composed of lemongrass pulp and molasses feed, a roughage feed with approximately 30 per cent molasses content; blackstrap molasses in unlimited quantities; small percentages of high protein supplements in the form of cottonseed, peanut or soybean meal and the usual mineral supplements.

MEAT CONSUMPTION

According to the American Meat Institute meat consumption will average 145 pounds this year compared with 137 pounds in 1943. The anticipated increase of eight pounds of meat per capita will be mostly in beef, with pork second and small increases in veal. The armed forces and lend-lease are taking more than one-quarter of all the meat which is being produced. . . . Bureau of Agricultural Economics expects civilians to consume about 77.5 pounds of meat per capita for the first six months of 1944 and 67.5 pounds, or 10 pounds per person less, in the latter half of the year.

RANCH BOOKSHELF



The Meat We Eat, by Ziegler. Handbook for slaughtering, carving, curing, tanning, storing. 375 pages. \$2.70.

Feeds and Feeding, by Morrison. The stockman's guide for 40 years. 1,050 pages, illustrated. \$5.

Animal Sanitation and Disease Control, by Dykstra. 600 pages of information on livestock health. \$2.85.

Repairing Farm Machinery, by Morrison. Contains repair procedure for mowers, binders, plows and other farm machinery. Illustrated. \$1.80.

Selecting, Fitting and Showing Livestock, by Nordby and Lattig. Pocket size books of about 140 pages each, dealing with beef cattle, horses, dairy cattle, swine, sheep and poultry. Illustrated. Six volumes, \$4.80. One volume, \$1.

Livestock Judging Handbook, by Nordby, Beason and Fourn, \$2.60.

Beef Cattle Production in the South, by Williams. Practical chapters on breeding, fitting and management. \$2.

Things to Make for Farm and Home, by Cook. Devoted entirely to plans and specifications. Materials required for buildings of all kinds, sheep, cattle, hog and poultry buildings and equipment. How to make things from old parts and waste material. \$2.50.

More Things to Make, by Cook. Drawings and materials shown for making wood and metal items, many out of salvage material. \$3.

Sheep, by Horlacher & Hammonds. Covers many subjects that concern a practical sheepman. \$2.

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Washington Notes

Beef livestock representatives in conference with OPA officials the past month or two have been trying to find a way to keep the feedlot operator in the game and to keep processors operating at capacity. So far nothing definite has been arrived at. A. D. Brownfield, president of the American National Live Association, F. E. Mollin, executive secretary, various other officers of the American National and other organizations and members of the Joint Livestock Committee have also conferred on the subject. It was suggested by cattle representatives that in order to make it possible for the feeder to continue operations an increase in the ceilings on the top two grades of beef should be permitted to provide the extra

spread that is needed under the feeders' advanced cost of feeding and operation. It was argued that the adjustment is necessary to re-establish the "normal historical relationship" between the two top grades and grade B; that the Vinson directive overlooked this relationship. Another proposal to help create the spread necessary for the feeder was an advance of 3 cents in the price of hides, which it was generally agreed could be assumed by the tanner without reflecting on the retail levels.

More recently on this subject OPA officials have been studying costs of production figures worked out by experts from the five leading feed states. Their studies showed that the feed cost in every type of feedlot operation has at least doubled since the beginning of 1941. Other expenses in production have advanced in some cases even more than the feed costs.

Producer representatives have stuck to a policy of non-approval of subsidies; they have opposed lowering of the price schedules established in the Vinson directive and insisted that beef ceilings be raised in accordance with the OPA act to compensate for the substantial increases in costs of production and feeding since the ceilings were established on December 16, 1942.

* * *

The price control extension bill finally got through Congress after Senate and House conferees compromised on a score of amendments to the point of leaving the law just about as it was for another 12 months. The much-discussed amendment to subject OPA regulations to review by the federal district courts instead of the Emergency Court of Appeals was dropped and instead an OPA review board is provided for to hear protests against OPA orders. Some of the other changes are: Commodities pro-

Observations on a Round of Meetings

In the belief that a view of some of last month's conventions as seen through the eyes of an American National president attending the gatherings for the first time would be interesting to our readers, the PRODUCER's editors have asked A. D. Brownfield to record some of his observations along the routes traveled to reach these annual meetings. Mr. Brownfield's account is given herewith:

YOU ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU some of my impressions of the country that I've traveled over within the past two weeks, and the general feeling of the people that I've met in the different states.

I should skip Colorado for there are those coming into your office occasionally who can give you a more concise picture. However, that part of it I passed through has had plenty of rain and the grass is growing nicely. I am advised the entire state is in like condition.

Eastern Wyoming and Montana, and western North and South Dakota and Nebraska look as though it would be impossible for those sections to be better in the short time since frost disappeared. Western Kansas and Oklahoma are in excellent condition and stock seems to be gaining rapidly. Yet it is doubtful that stock will be fat enough to market much ahead of the usual time because of the late spring and thin condition of the cattle. Some of the native cattle that were fed on supplemental feed during the winter and early spring can, perhaps, be marketed a trifle earlier than usual. This number in all probability will not be large.

A general feeling of optimism prevailed among the cattlemen of the Nebraska cattle growers' convention, and also at both the North and South

Dakota cattle growers' conventions, primarily because of favorable grass conditions. This, of course, is the greatest feeling that ever comes over any cattleman after experiencing a hard winter or dry summer.

Most, if not all, of the growers and feeders that I talked to at these conventions would like to see the OPA and WFA agencies of the government simplify and make more clear the price control system and the meat management and feed management plan so as to remove as much doubt and uncertainty as possible. This is true about any changes or amendments Congress may make in the price control and stabilization law which seems to be in the status of conference over compromises, at this writing, between the Senate and House.

Whether or not anything is done by the Congress to improve some of the defects, as cited, in the price control law, or by OPA and WFA through changes in regulations to improve maladjustments as between various segments of the livestock industry, the consensus of opinion is that plenty of cattle will be moved to the central markets this late summer and throughout the fall to keep the processors operating at full capacity. In fact, there is concern over a possible glut on the market which could cause embargoes similar to the hog shippers' condition the past few weeks. The one thing everyone hopes to avoid is a bottleneck on the killing floors because of the lack of skilled labor.

In conversation with some feeders who have been buying their cattle recently in order to get a cheap summer gain on grass, I learn that these feeders who raise their own feed and feed it are willing to take another chance and many of them will be in the market

for cattle this fall. For the large operator—the commercial feeder who buys both cattle and feed—these fellows say definitely they are not going to return unless something is done by the government to increase the feeding profit margin, or there is assurance of a definite feed plan price management. Such statements are well grounded because the cost of feeds have about doubled since 1941, and so have the costs of labor, material, equipment and other incidentals.

Three things seemed to be uppermost in the minds of everyone at these meetings; these are: that the government do something to keep the feedlots in operation; that the government aid in keeping the processors operating at full capacity; and that the government should not use any device that would push the price down on the low quality cattle, which would tend to build up a larger stockpile of cattle instead of encouraging a reduction in numbers.

Many growers, feeders, commission merchants and packer representatives at these meetings were of the opinion the enormous hog shipments to the central markets since January will reduce the total numbers substantially, and that this reduction will automatically bring the pig crop far below last year's production. Also, this reduction will lessen the total consumption of corn, and unless the demand by the government or by the dairy or poultry interests increases, the feeders of cattle may be able to acquire that difference. In addition, the corn acreage has been increased and because of floods and late cold weather planting has been delayed, which will delay maturity and perhaps bring on a larger soft corn supply than normal. All of this will be an incentive to more cattle feeding.

—A. D. BROWNFIELD.

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cessed from agricultural products must not be sold at a price less than that which will reflect a parity to the producer; penalties for unlawful price ceiling violations are reduced; OPA itself is authorized to initiate damage suits for overcharges.

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A recent Interstate Commerce Commission report in Carstens Packing Co. vs. Northern Pacific Railway Co. briefly stated rejects the contention of the packing company that fat-cattle rates assessed were unreasonable to the extent that they exceeded the western livestock scale. The order dealt with rates from points in Canada to Spokane, Seattle and Tacoma, Wash. Shipments to Seattle and Tacoma on which the 3 per cent increase authorized by the ICC in 1942 was added to the joint rate were held as being overcharged to the extent of the amount of increase charged for transportation in Canada.

* * *

The WFA arranged for importation in July of 6,000,000 bushels of corn from Argentina to relieve domestic shortage, part of 40,000,000 bushels to be imported. . . . Restrictions on farm slaughter of livestock and the delivery of meat have been removed by the War Food Administration. . . . Meat from block bulls and stags may now be used in point-free hamburger. . . . The OPA has finally set ceilings on used automobiles. The regulations do not apply to trucks. . . . The estimated number of men and women of voting age on Jan. 1, 1944, was 88,666,555—women 44,622,886 and men 44,043,669. . . . Under the new income tax law stockmen may file final return by Jan. 15 or estimate the tax Jan. 15 and file a final return Mar. 15. A farmer now is anyone receiving more than two-thirds of his income from farming.

* * *

All western regional rangemen of the Forest Service and Washington officials Lyle F. Watts, chief of Forest Service, W. R. Chapline, chief of the division of range research, W. L. Dutton, chief of the division of range management, were in conference in Ogden, Utah, May 22 to June 3. On May 26 a meeting of these men and stockmen took place. Representing livestock was Henry G. Boice, Tucson, Ariz., past president of the American National Live Stock Association; Wil-

liam B. Wright, Deeth, Nev., first vice-president of the American National; Roscoe C. Rich, Burley, Ida., past president of the National Wool Growers' Association, and John Reed, Kemmerer, Wyo., president of the Wyoming wool group.

It is reported that Mr. Watts assured stockmen there was no major change in the distribution policy contemplated for the coming term permit period. Ten-year permits will again be issued in every case where the applicant can qualify. The present ten-year permit period ends with 1945.

A joint conference was held with the new director of grazing, C. L. Forsling, and his staff. A half day was spent in the meeting. Mr. Forsling recently succeeded R. H. Rutledge as chief of the Grazing Service.

* * *

Appropriations—The Senate's agricultural appropriation bill carries appropriations of \$524,781,718 as against \$888,569,383 for the fiscal year 1944. Not to exceed \$290,000,000 is appropriated for carrying out the provisions of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act. This item used to run into \$500,000,000 plus \$200,000,000 for parity payments. . . . A special House committee recommending abolition of the FSA said that the agency through loans controls clients to the extent of "telling a borrower how to raise his children and how to plan his home life."

* * *

Under a reclassification of veterinarians in the Bureau of Animal Industry a modest increase in salary, long overdue, is permitted.

RIGHT TIME TO CUT

Here are some simple rules given by the Department of Agriculture on the right time to cut hay for the best protein content: Alfalfa—when one-tenth to one-fourth in bloom or when lower leaves begin to turn yellow or as new shoots start at base; red clover—when one-half in bloom; first-year sweet clover—in late fall before frost; second-year sweet clover—at the bud stage; annual lespedeza—when in full bloom; soybeans—when the pods are half filled. AWI Leaflet No. 97, "Making High-Grade Hay," may be obtained free from the Office of Information, Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

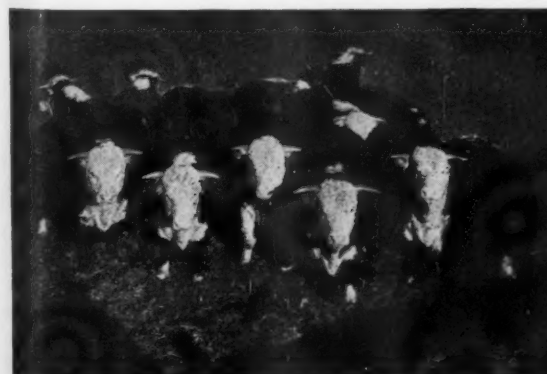
CROSSBREEDING

Experiments to determine whether a system of crossing can be developed which will maintain hybrid vigor at a sufficiently high level to yield greater net returns to beef producers have been under way at the Range and Livestock Experiment Station at Miles City, Mont. Offspring of a cross with purebred Shorthorn bulls on Hereford cows compared with Hereford steers as follows: "Greater production per animal unit as shown by heavier weight for age, heavier weaning weight of calves for the producer, greater gaining calves for the feeder, fewer digestive disorders in the feedlot, more uniform gaining and finishing steers in the feedlot, greater returns above production costs either as weanling calves or fattened steers." Females from the first cross are being mated to Angus bulls for the second generation. The triple-cross heifers will then be mated back to Hereford bulls. The specialists advise that conditions of the experiment were carefully controlled, and similar results cannot always be expected from indiscriminate crossing of ordinary beef cattle.

CATTLE WEIGHTS

We have heard it said that cattle coming to market weigh much less than they have in previous years. But this is not so. Checking into government figures on average weight of beef steers sold at Chicago for slaughter we find that for the first five months of this year average weight was 1,063 pounds as against 1,075 in the first five months of 1943. The decrease is slightly more than 1 per cent. However, figures of the last month or two of the 1944 period show a more decided trend toward lighter weights than those for 1943. Figures on average dressed weight of cattle slaughtered under federal inspection for the first four months are 525 pounds in 1944 and 539 in 1943, a little more than 2½ per cent drop in 1944, which confirms the showing as to the slight drop in live weight and also indicates less finish.

Horses vaccinated against sleeping sickness are five times more likely to escape the disease than those not vaccinated.



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THE Secretary Reports BY F. E. M.

How quickly the range grass picture can change! Before Montana stockmen met at Helena for the annual convention of the Montana Stockgrowers' Association they had several weeks of worry over threat of drought. But light to heavy rains fell on the dry ranges and immediately came forth the good grass. Heaviest rains were in the southwest and southeast.

* * *

It was evident at the Okanogan, Wash., meeting of the Washington Cattlemen's Association that that organization is growing rapidly in numbers and strength. A lot of new blood is helping turn the trick.

* * *

With meat so plentiful that most kinds and cuts are off the ration list, those cereal-bean-eating Cornell professors look sort of sad.

* * *

Rumors persist in Washington that more subsidies are to be given to packers on beef purchases. Next year we must plan to head back toward sound business practices, but there seems no stopping this monkey-work now.

* * *

It's rumored that OPA wants to hire a cattleman as a consultant. What would one poor cattleman do in that mob? Go down and watch them pour into the old Census Building in the morning or pour out at night!

* * *

A whole flock of amendments to the OPA bills are pending. Disregard of many safety provisions of the present law by the administration is back of many of these amendments.

* * *

Heavy calf slaughter is the biggest surprise of the season. Federally inspected slaughter in May was 65 per cent above a year ago; slaughter for the first five months of the year was 45 per cent above a year ago.

* * *

Liquidation of cattle on feed continues heavy. Replacement purchases are reported very light.

Some Reports on Artificial Insemination

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION, A subject which has been coming in for a goodly share of attention in the press, is taken up in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association for May, under the headings "Artificial Insemination in Horses" and "Artificial Insemination in Great Britain." Crediting its information on horses to an article appearing in the March 18, 1944, issue of *Thoroughbred Record*, the Journal declares that it is more difficult to collect semen from stallions than from

bulls, and also artificial insemination is not so widely practiced in horses as in cattle and sheep because the Jockey Club has ruled the stallion must actually serve the mare, since it is important that "the sire and the dam be accurately and definitely known" when registering the offspring. The regulation does not apply, however, in the case of the Standard bred, the American Saddle Horse, or draft breeds.

As for the British attitude on artificial insemination it is reported that "the British Ministry of Agriculture controls but does not promote artificial insemination and the livestock societies are opposed to it. Their attitude is one of caution if not aversion." Nonetheless, it is pointed out that regulations have been formulated on control of the practice and four stations have been licensed to direct the work.

National Live Stock Producer, in the May edition, also touches on this matter, with the assertion that artificial insemination of dairy cows in New York state has expanded until there are now 32 farmer-owned cooperatives, widely scattered, making use of the service.

Dr. Stephen Bartlett, directing experiments at Reading, Britain, believes that his country and other European countries will practice artificial insemination after the war but that the results must vary with the management or mismanagement of the herd in use. The first progeny sired under the new method by a Guernsey bull have been attracting attention at the Reading center; the bull is declared to have sired ten times as many calves as normally.

A bulletin from the Scottish Amalgamated Trade News Agencies advises that Scottish breeders have taken a somewhat disapproving view of the practice. For one thing they believe that the process is "relatively too easy and that mass production of quality products by such a method must cheapen the value of the article." Meanwhile, the agency states that there is no great enthusiasm among official breeders and all indications are that artificial breeding will not be encouraged in Scotland.

Pastoral Review (Melbourne) says that the Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Breeders' Society of South Africa unanimously resolved at a meeting in December not to accept for registration in its herd book any animals begot by means of artificial insemination. A recommendation to the same effect was also adopted at a meeting of the Devon Cattle Breeders' Society of Great Britain.

INCREASES REFRIGERATION

In Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, killings of cattle for refrigeration and canning now outnumber killings destined to sun-dried, salted beef production, it is reported in *Commerce Weekly*. The significance of the report is that Brazil, large consumer of salted beef, is reversing a trend of long standing in stepping up refrigerated and canned meat production.

Story of the Markets

By H. W. FRENCH

SLAUGHTER STEER AND COW prices were very irregular. Sharp breaks were followed immediately by sharp advances, usually to have prices level off, although there was some underlying strength at the finish. The price range widened, with the good and choice offerings getting the best action except at times when buyers were after numbers. The bull market went contrary to every other class, especially those with weight, and at no time showed any reaction.



H. W. French

During the closing week of May the market for steers and she-stock was down following an advance a week earlier when prices hit such a high level that packers lost their subsidy payments. With a let-up in supplies, the market again began an upward march, so that closing prices were at the high point of the season and in some instances the highest in several years.

Since the top price for beef steers broke the \$17 deadlock, new high figures have been recorded weekly. Quickly the top went to \$17.25 and later many sales were reported at \$17.35 to \$17.50, and finally \$17.60 was paid for choice to prime 1,250- to 1,400-pound offerings. Even light yearlings reached \$17.25 and long yearlings sold as high as \$17.40. While most of the talk in the cattle trade is about the new high figures, one must not overlook the medium to good steers which have been selling largely at \$14 to \$16.25, although near the close any number of good to choice went at \$16.50 to \$17.15.

Heifers did not take a back seat and rose to a new top of \$17.35 as other long-fed offerings registered at \$17 to \$17.25, and the bulk of medium to choice made \$13.50 to \$16.50. Grass cows were selling largely from \$12 down but drylot animals often sold at \$13 to \$14 and occasionally at \$14.50 and above. On the high spot heavy cutters went up to \$10 and canners as high as \$9, some from Tennessee going down to \$8. Light and medium weight bulls often went at \$10 to \$11.50 but good heavy sausage animals made \$12.25 to \$12.75, while many of the heavy beef bulls scored \$13.75 to \$14.50 with an extreme top of \$15. Vealers regularly reached \$16.

Mid-June prices compared with a month earlier showed an uneven upward trend. Grain-fed steers and heifers were largely 50 to 75 cents higher, while cows averaged 25 cents higher. Most of the bulls gained 75 cents to \$1 but some

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of the heavy bulls were up even more. Calves and vealers sold on a steady to strong basis.

Feed Conditions Improved

Feed conditions have improved greatly in many sections, resulting in considerable relief, so that the situation is not so tight as a month ago. Heavy rains, however, have been a drawback in some areas. It was indicated on June 1 that hay production would total around 99,000,000 tons, consisting of 87,000,000 tons tame hay and 12,000,000 tons wild hay. This is considerably smaller than the two previous seasons but about 16,000,000 tons above the 10-year average.

Gluten feed and meal production in May for domestic shipment was 68,304 tons against approximately 48,000 tons in April. The season's total is 623,400 tons, or 47,000 tons less than a year ago. April mill feed production was 403,756 tons, bringing the July-through-April production to nearly 4,500,000 tons, or nearly 300,000 tons larger than the previous season. Cottonseed cake and meal production in May dropped to 62,717 tons, making the total since last August 1, of 1,774,964 tons.

Grassy cattle are on the increase, and perhaps the general movement from native states will be earlier this season. Certainly current prices are attractive, and where possible owners will do well to keep moving their cattle to market, thereby avoiding certain congestions later. The assured shortage of grain-fed cattle ahead will be offset somewhat by increased shipments of grassers.

Receipts of cattle and calves at 68 markets for August through December in 1943 totaled 12,587,361 against 12,579,478 for the same period in 1942, and a five-year average of 10,376,750. The peak movement in both years was during October, with approximately 3,000,000 in that month for each year. In addition to this supply there was a vast number of cattle and calves moved to auction rings and direct to feedlots.

This is the period of most concern to the cattle industry, and with the largest number on hand on record at present, earlier marketing is advocated to avoid too much congestion during the fall shipping season. Many of the cattle on hand on January 1, 1944, have already been marketed, but this disposition undoubtedly is offset by the number born since that date.

New Records in Slaughter

May slaughter of cattle and calves under federal inspection at 989,000 and 541,000, respectively, made new records for the month, comparing with 774,000 cattle and 328,000 calves for May last year. Five months' totals were 5,169,000 cattle and 2,570,000 calves against 4,275,000 cattle and 1,774,000 calves during the corresponding period a year ago.

Good pasture feed and excellent soil moisture conditions are reported in the Osage-Flint Hills of Oklahoma and Kansas where about 10 per cent fewer cattle

have been placed this spring than a year ago. There are around 310,000 cattle in those areas, compared with 345,000 a year ago. Cattle are generally in good condition although hardly up to a year ago.

During the week ending June 3, choice and prime steers made up only 12.3 per cent of those sold out of first hands at Chicago, as compared with 17.4 per cent a year ago. The good grade stood at 53.7 and 65.2 per cent, respectively. Medium grade constituted 30.9 and 16.7 per cent, respectively. This is an indication of shorter feeding, which is also borne out by the lighter weights of all grades which stood at 1,010 and 1,071 pounds, respectively.

Missouri River markets and Denver thus far have not reported any slaughter steers up to the \$17 mark, although current sales of both steers and heifers are at or near the year's high point. On the other hand, both Portland and Los Angeles have had steers above \$17, although none of that finish was available of late.

West coast markets have been "hot" and "cold" by turns but with some deterioration in quality. The close by no means was the high spot, as there was some softness to the late market. Los Angeles had some steers during the month up to \$17 and many from \$15 to \$16, reporting best grass-fat kinds at \$15 to \$15.50 and common to medium grassers at \$11 to \$13.50. Most cows went at \$9.75 to \$12, although odd lots went materially above \$13.25. It was usually \$13.50 to \$14.50 for grass steers at San Francisco where grain-feds topped at \$16.50 and good cows made \$12.50. Some grass steers at Portland scored \$14 to \$14.50 but the bulk sold below \$12.50.

Replacement Buyers Cautious

Replacement demand has switched largely to fleshy steers despite the improved growth of the grass in pasture areas. Only a small number of buyers have been taking the thin light cattle, although there is considerable movement of southwesterners direct to pastures. The recent new strength on grain-fed cattle has had a tendency to bolster the call for replacement stock, but most prospective buyers still are cautious because of the nervous condition of the fat-cattle market.

During May 74,246 cattle and calves went into the eight Corn Belt states for feeding purposes, as compared with 99,128 a year earlier, and each state reported a decrease. This movement January through May totaled 393,791 against 567,503 for the corresponding period last year. The big decreases were for Iowa and Nebraska.

Replacement steer prices are vastly under a year ago. During May, the average cost of steers taken out of Chicago figured \$12.91 against \$14.70 a year ago. The Kansas City figures were \$12.84 and \$14.60, respectively, while St. Paul averages were \$11.09 and \$13.23, respectively. Weights were down, with the most decrease at Kansas City.

Stocker and feeder cattle at Chicago, as at other markets, have been selling very unevenly, and at mid-June were little different from a month ago. It was generally a \$10.75 to \$14.25 market for common to choice replacement steers, and many buyers operated only at \$13.50 and below. Kentucky distilleries were taking common, rough steers at \$10.75 to \$10.90.

Heavy Hog Slaughter

Federally inspected houses for the period October, 1943, through May, 1944,

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July, 1944

reported a hog slaughter of 54,785,613 as compared with 40,265,940 for the corresponding time last year, or an increase of 36 per cent. The May slaughter of 6,642,616 was up 24 per cent from a year ago. Holdings of lard in cold storage on June 1 were over 13,000,000 pounds lighter than a month earlier, although more than double the June 1 five-year average.

Continued liberal hog receipts not only at Chicago but at many of the other principal hog centers made for congestion, although all interests did everything possible to avoid heavy unloadings. Selling agencies advised hog shippers to control shipping to meet trade requirements, and slaughterers bought to their capacities. Nevertheless, liberal holdovers prevailed constantly, and at times more than 25,000 hogs were held over at Chicago.

Hogs of support weight and grade—those of good to choice grade and from 180 to 270 pounds—held practically stationary at Chicago throughout the month. Offerings below 180 pounds at mid-June were 25 cents or more higher than a month earlier, while those above 270 pounds showed mostly 15 to 25 cents' loss. The top remained at \$13.75. In fact, the good and choice 180- to 270-pound offerings went at this figure, making it a one-price market. No hogs above 270 pounds on the close passed \$12.50, and extremely heavy kinds sold downward from \$11 as did those from 160 pounds down. Only best light sows went above \$10.75.

Between Seasons

Sheep and lamb receipts have been dwindling rapidly as it is between seasons. The feedlot woolled offerings are a rarity, and not many old-crop clippers are available except from the Texas area. Volume of native spring lambs has not been large and to date only a small number of Idaho springers have put in an appearance. Range spring lambs should move in good volume after July 1.

Trade surveys at the end of May indicated that possibly upward of 250,000 to 300,000 new-crop feeder lambs are now shorn and being fattened on irrigated pastures and "drought-

parched" or "burnt-out" grain fields in California. Up to May 27, approximately 188,000 moved out of the state against 157,000 a year earlier and 221,000 two years ago. This year only about 50,000 were contracted in advance, whereas around 80 per cent of the crop the previous year was under early contract.

Mid-June prices at Chicago for shorn slaughter lambs were around strong to 25 cents higher than a month ago, while ewes were largely steady to strong. The fluctuations were not very severe at any time, but quality frequently was not very high. Early in the period some good to choice old-crop woolled lambs reached \$16.25. Choice shorn lambs with No. 1 and No. 2 pelts reached \$14.75 but sales above \$14.50 were not very numerous and medium kinds sold at \$13.75 and below. Native spring lambs sold largely from \$16 down, although a top of \$16.35 was registered. Ogden reported some good old-crop Idaho spring lambs at \$15 to \$15.75. Shorn ewes at Chicago sold up to \$7.50 but most of the medium to good made \$6 to \$7. Medium to good old-crop shorn lambs and yearlings moved freely at Ft. Worth at \$10.75 to \$13.50. Feeder lambs were practically absent at Chicago, good to choice weighty new-crop Californians making \$13.25 at Omaha, where medium to good lightweights scored \$11.75 to \$12.50.

Movement of replacement sheep and lambs into eight Corn Belt states during May fell down to 117,606 against 193,798 a year ago. The January-through-May movement stood at 504,055 and 922,819, respectively. Recently demand for feeding lambs at the markets has not been very urgent in the face of light supplies, and little early contracting has been consummated on the western ranges to date, although some deals on light lambs were reported in Montana at \$10 to \$11.

Reports from sheepmen who have returned from field trips indicate rather heavy losses of ewes and new-crop lambs in parts of Wyoming and Colorado, although in most other states conditions are more satisfactory. Losses have been due largely to too much wet weather and below-normal temperatures.

To Plow or Not to Plow

A recently arisen nation-wide argument over plowing, wherein one side advocates complete elimination of the moldboard plow, finds both sides right as to principle but neither side always right as to practice, in the opinion of Art King, extension soils specialist at Oregon State College. He points out that while the plowers and non-plowers are right about what happens to the soil under both methods, the latter must remember that any wealth created by farming comes from the soil.

When nature supported only nature nothing was removed or sold. On the other hand, a farmer in making a liv-

ing sells fertility from the farm in the form of crops. Thus, plowing may deplete land, but does so only as an aid to high production. Plowing stops plant growth and mixes surface organic matter with the soil, starting the destruction of the soil. Such destruction, however, is necessary to make plant food available, both from plant material and from soil minerals, according to King's explanation. Continued, intensive plowing may wear out the soil completely and far-sighted farmers avert this by planning continued renewal of organic matter through rotation and other addition.

CALENDAR

- JULY—**
14-16—44th Annual Cattlemen's Day, Gunnison, Colo.
AUGUST—
22-23—National Ram Sale, Salt Lake City.
NOVEMBER—
4-8—Ogden Livestock Show, Ogden, Utah.
DECEMBER—
2-7—Chicago Market Fat Stock and Carlot Competition, Chicago.
JANUARY—
13-21—National Western Stock Show, Denver.

SOME RECENT SALES

HEREFORDS—	No.	Av.	Top
Marellbar Farm, Ill.	39	\$1,618	\$5,100
Smith & Freeman, Wash.	48	958	4,250
Bear Creek Ranch, Mont.	261	242	1,200
W. R. Wedrick, Ind.	52	317	1,525
By The Way Ranch, Neb.	153	315	3,000
Bar 13 Ranch, Wyo.	484	375	
SHORTHORNS—			
Sni-A-Bar, Mo.	45	636	1,575
POLLED SHORTHORNS—			
Polled Shorthorn Congress, Ohio.	64	492	1,000
ANGUS—			
Hoppley-McGregor, Ia.	84	532	4,000
No. Central Regional, N. D.	111	350	2,500
Leo Archer, Mo.	61	164	400

LIVESTOCK AT STOCKYARDS

	May		5-Month Total	
	1944	1943	1944	1943
RECEIPTS—				
Cattle	1,482	1,207	7,030	6,335
Calves	528	393	2,192	1,905
Hogs	4,161	3,333	22,904	15,483
Sheep and Lambs	2,455	2,078	9,088	9,052
STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—				
Cattle	259	277	1,045	1,375
Calves	44	58	170	239
Hogs	67	61	357	329
Sheep and Lambs	232	378	832	1,296
SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION—				
Cattle	989	774	5,170	4,276
Calves	541	328	2,570	1,774
Hogs	6,643	5,357	35,317	24,247
Sheep and Lambs	1,694	1,622	8,044	7,798

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

	June 1		June 1	
	1944	1943	1944	1943
Frozen Beef	235,865	261,041	80,213	66,317
Cured Beef	8,871	9,953	9,847	14,546
Total Pork	771,032	784,801	519,798	606,378
Lamb and Mutton	14,417	16,723	10,284	5,802
Misc. Meats	133,614	135,483	93,557	84,728
Lard	453,473	466,784	156,447	199,742
Rend. Pork Fat	36,292	31,451	9,682	
Total Poultry	122,733	130,044	20,963	77,431

CHICAGO LIVESTOCK PRICES

	June 15, 1944	June 15, 1943
Steers—Choice	16.25-17.60	15.75-17.00
Steers—Good	16.00-17.60	14.50-15.75
Steers—Medium	12.75-16.00	13.00-14.50
Vealers—Good-Choice	15.00-16.00	15.00-16.00
Cows—Good	12.75-14.25	12.75-14.00
Vealers—Good-Choice	15.00-16.00	15.00-16.00
Calves—Good-Choice	12.00-14.00	12.00-14.00
F. & S. Strs.—Gd.—Ch.	12.50-14.50	14.00-16.25
F. & S. Strs.—C.—Md.	9.00-12.50	12.00-14.00
Hogs—(200-240 lbs.)	13.75 only	13.90-14.15
Lambs (Shorn) Gd.—Ch.	14.00-14.50	13.65-14.50
Ewes (Shorn) Gd.—Ch.	7.00-7.50	7.25-8.25

WHOLESALE DRESSED MEATS

	New York June 15, 1944	Chicago June 17, 1943
Steer—Choice	21.50-22.25	21.50-23.75
Steer—Good	20.50-21.25	20.50-22.75
Cow—Commercial	18.50-19.25	18.50-18.75
Veal—Choice	21.50-22.25	21.50-23.75
Veal—Good	20.50-21.25	20.50-22.75
Lamb—Choice	26.00-26.75	26.00-28.25
Lamb—Good	24.50-25.25	24.50-26.75
Ewe—Good	13.25-14.00	13.25-15.50
Ewe—Commercial	12.00-12.75	12.00-14.25
Pork Loin—8-12 lbs.	25.00-26.00	25.25-28.75

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ROUND THE RANGE

Western Livestock And Range Report

Fair to very good feed with favorable prospects for summer grazing except in dry areas of the Northwest, Southwest and California, is the gist of the range report of June 10 by the Denver western livestock office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Stock was making good gains and overcoming the setbacks of earlier storms and late feed. A summary of conditions by states follows:

Arizona. Range feed fair to good—good in north, fair in south and central counties; cattle condition good; sheep good and have moved north.

California. Pasture and range feed improved more than seemed likely; stock made good gains; grass cattle marketings, though not forced, in strong volume; good demand for feeders.

Colorado. Pasture and range feed late due to cold, wet weather; grazing prospects excellent; cattle gained some but sheep declined; death losses highest since 1935.

Idaho. Range feed improved; lower ranges in southwest dried early with short growth; in east and higher ranges feed prospects good; stock good; early lambs overcame some of early setback.

Western Kansas. Pasture feed markedly improved; pastures well filled; cattle made rapid gains.

Montana. Range and pasture feed improved; feed poor to fair in west and north-central but good in south and east; stock good; losses light; calf and lamb crops good.

Western Nebraska. Range feed late but improved; grass and wild hay prospects good; Sandhills seldom better; cattle gained after long period of adverse weather and feed shortage; cattle and calf losses above average.

Nevada. Range feed made good growth; stock good and making good gains.

New Mexico. Range feed poor to good; feed prospects good to very good in north; feed drying in south; stock held up well and gaining where feed is plentiful; livestock crops fair to good; winter losses above average but not heavy.

North Dakota. Range and pasture feed above average; stock generally good; calf crop good; lamb crop fair to good.

Oklahoma. Range and pasture feed improved markedly; cattle making good gains; cattle losses above average.

Oregon. Range feed growth slowed by cold and lack of moisture; late May rains helped; range and pasture feed good in west but fair in east and southeast; stock held up well but gained less than expected.

Western South Dakota. Range feed

excellent after late start; moisture ample; stock fair to good after severe late winter and spring weather; losses above average; calf crop fair; lamb percentage hit by storms.

Texas. Range feed improved except in dry west and local areas of central and southern Texas; stock good; calf crop good; lamb crop fairly good; cattle and calf movement past five months smaller than last year; sheep and lamb movements in May largest for May.

Utah. Range feed late but prospects very good; soil moisture conditions very good; stock gaining after considerable winter shrinking; stock losses little larger than usual; livestock crops fair to good.

Washington. Range feed slow due to cold dry weather; lower and early ranges short with short soil moisture; higher range prospects good but moisture low; stock good; early lambs developed slowly.

Wyoming. Range feed slow but moisture ample; stock fairly good but show effects of severe weather; losses above average; fairly heavy sheep losses in south, central and southwest; calf crop good; lamb crop fairly good.

Condition of cattle and ranges with comparisons follows:

STATE	RANGES				CATTLE			
	June 1944	May 1944	June 1943	20-Year Av. 1923-42	June 1944	May 1944	June 1943	20-Year Av. 1923-42
N. D.	88	80	84	79	87	82	84	82
S. D. (w)	93	78	79	82	86	79	84	87
Mont.	86	82	89	88	89	88	90	92
Wyo.	88	76	89	88	85	82	90	89
Neb. (w)	90	81	85	86	87	83	89	88
Kan. (w)	93	73	88	79	84	74	90	87
Colo.	85	76	90	87	82	79	92	88
Okla.	87	79	88	84	85	78	86	84
Tex.	88	78	85	86	85	80	85	86
N. M.	77	78	76	84	80	78	82	85
Ida.	85	80	84	88	86	85	86	91
Wash.	86	84	85	88	88	85	83	89
Ore.	78	79	83	88	83	83	85	90
Utah	89	77	81	87	87	82	86	89
Nev.	92	84	88	91	95	89	92	93
Ariz.	80	80	68	82	84	82	73	85
Cal.	70	61	87	81	81	76	90	90
Av. Western Range States	85	77	84	85	85	80	86	87

Equivalent of reported conditions: 49 or below is very bad; 50-59, bad; 60-69, poor; 70-79, fair; 80-89, good; 90-99, very good; 100 and over is excellent, unusual.

CATTLE IN ARGENTINA

The Montana Stock Grower gives government figures on cattle population of Argentina as 31,461,000 head at the last count against 33,750,000 a year earlier. No cattle census is taken in Brazil but in that country cattle are said to be increasing. In the fall of 1939 the number was given as 40,565,000 while from another source the population in 1942 was 45,000,000 head. The figures may not necessarily show the extent of the increase. The latter figure is taken to be more exact.

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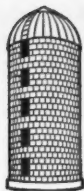
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GRAZING SERVICE REPORTS

Information furnished by the Grazing Service, Salt Lake City, based upon reports of regional graziers, shows progress on the issuance of 10-year permits and that 65 per cent of all operators are now on 10-year permits. Excerpts from reports of the various regional graziers follow:

Arizona. Cattle sales were reported on moderate scales at 10 to 13 cents. Agreement between the state and stockmen of the Arizona strip district providing for common use of range and water over a wide area in the House Rock Valley by the state buffalo herd and domestic livestock solved a range problem of long standing. A former withdrawal in favor of the buffalo was lifted and a maximum of 200 buffalo will graze under permit.—C. F. Dierking.

Colorado. About 90 per cent of the federal range operators in this region are now on a 10-year permit basis. Good seasonal precipitation favored range reseeding projects. Species showing best results are crested wheat, western wheat, smooth brome, and sweet clover in order named. Losses due to predatory animals continue high. Efficient ranch and range labor is scarce.—Russell B. Rose.

Idaho. Adverse weather conditions have held back the early shipments of lambs which will reach the markets later than usual. The higher ranges being ready to graze earlier will cause the late lambs to glut early markets, offset to a great extent by the reduced number of lambs. Range cattle are in excellent condition throughout the state.—Kelso P. Newman.

Montana. Brisk activity in ranch property sales. Many larger operators are reducing numbers, due principally to shortage of efficient labor. Two-thirds of the operators are now on a permit basis. Action on routine district matters in one district was expedited by the formation of a three-member advisory board executive committee to handle business matters between regular board meetings. Such actions are considered by the board at regular meetings.—R. E. Morgan.

Nevada-California. Considerable time and effort during the quarter were disposed to cooperative activities with war agencies on expanding aerial training grounds involving large areas of public lands; also in furnishing assistance in connection with the food program. A cooperative survey of game animals in the Pyramid and Honey Lake districts was completed and plans for an orderly reduction where needed were presented to appropriate officials in preliminary form.—Nic W. Monte.

New Mexico. Boards are in agreement on advisability of reducing herds and look with disfavor on increasing numbers on a war-emergency basis or otherwise. Increases, if any, were confined to those range allotments known

to be understocked. Ranch sales continued brisk. Two lots of yearling steers totaling 1,553 head sold at \$70.—E. R. Greenslet.

Chaco District, N. M. The advisory board in this district is composed of five Indian and five non-Indian stockmen representing all licensees, of whom 1,361 are Indians. This board recommended grazing licenses for 148,361 livestock, 122,319 head of which belong to Indians. Working in perfect harmony, the recommendations of the board have resulted in reductions to meet grazing capacity without a single appeal.—Harry W. Naylor.

Oregon. Blocking of land ownership under Section 8 of the Taylor Grazing Act was completed in several districts to the mutual advantage of range users and the administration of districts, resulting in good progress on conversion of temporary licenses to term permits. Increasing numbers of cattle are moving to terminal markets. Indications are that cattle numbers, which have been on the increase, have about reached the peak in this region. Many shifts from sheep to cattle were attributed to the labor and predatory animal situations. Good success was reported in combating coyotes by use of a small airplane. In Harney County operators reported an abrupt drop in predator activities after an enterprising flyer with a gunner had circled several lambing grounds at daybreak, spotting and shooting many of the worst killers.—K. C. Ikeler.

Utah. Cold, wet weather forced many sheep operators to seek new lambing grounds. Meat production is expected to be almost equal to the high level of the previous year. Hay carryover is the smallest of record for recent years. Winter ranges in widely scattered parts of the state showed a remarkable recovery of forage.—C. F. Moore.

Wyoming. Advisory board's deliberations indicated that it is advisable at this time to reduce livestock numbers as a safeguard against overproduction and range depletion. They have a keen interest in the big-game situation and work closely with state and federal agencies in this regard. A proportional amount of federal range grazing capacity approximating 6 per cent of the total has been set aside for big-game use. Close cooperation is maintained with wildlife interests.—Milton W. Reid.

NEW AND UNUSUAL FEEDS

UNDER THE HEADING "STRANGE Feeds I have Met," W. M. Regan of the University of California describes in a recent issue of *California Cultivator* the results of feeding tests at the university's division of animal husbandry. Some of those receiving consideration are:

Kapoc meal, a by-product of the oil made from the seeds of the kapoc tree.

Record of BAI

The Bureau of Animal Industry recently completed 60 years of scientific livestock service. During this period the bureau, which is the oldest in the Department of Agriculture, has reduced losses from most of the serious infectious diseases two-thirds or more. Specific activities are listed as: Contagious pleuropneumonia of cattle—eradicated completely; foot-and-mouth disease—all of seven outbreaks eradicated completely; European fowl pest—one outbreak eradicated completely; cattle tick fever—eradication more than 99 per cent complete; tuberculosis in cattle—reduced from a national average of 5 per cent to 0.2 per cent, a decrease of 96 per cent; hog cholera—(controllable by preventive serum treatment) losses reduced at least two-thirds; common scabies of cattle—practically eradicated; sheep scabies—losses reduced more than 90 per cent; glanders (horse disease)—practically eradicated; dourine (horse disease)—practically eradicated.

Within the last 10 years two other important diseases, bovine brucellosis (Bang's disease) and pullorum disease have likewise undergone veterinary attack, resulting in substantial reduction of both these maladies. Other extensive veterinary services were the development of federal meat inspection and exclusion of foreign infections.

Bureau studies have resulted in several new breeds and types of livestock and methods of getting more products for feed used.

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RODUCER

Cows and sheep could not be induced to eat it.

Artichoke silage, consisting of stalks and unmarketable heads. Found quite palatable to both sheep and cattle. (About equal in value to corn silage.)

Avocado meal, the residual meal after oil is extracted for use in making cosmetics. Proved fairly palatable and was found about equal to a good quality hay for sheep and cattle.

Dried coffee pulp (coffee bran), a by-product of the processing of coffee and the pulpy covering of the coffee berry. Sufficient material for digestion trials was not available at the time of the experiments through the Nicaraguan consul, which sent a supply of it, dehydrated, in an attempt to find a satisfactory outlet for it. Preliminary trials showed it to be quite palatable and a chemical analysis indicated a feeding value equivalent to good hay.

Dried orange pulp, made from surplus and cull oranges. Proved feeding value equivalent to that of dried beet pulp. This pulp is being sold at \$45 a ton. Lemon and grapefruit pulps have nutritive values similar to that of orange pulp.

Dried asparagus butts, refuse from a

great canning industry. Only fairly palatable for sheep and worth about as much as a fair quality of oat hay.

Dried olive pulp, residue from olive oil manufacture. About equal in feeding value to straw. Of doubtful value for livestock unless pits can be removed.

Dried pineapple pulp, consisting of skin, trimmings, core and ends after juice and meat are extracted. Animals ate it readily. Slightly less valuable than dried beet pulp.

Dried grape meal, dehydrated. Has a feeding value about equal to oat hay of from fair to poor quality.

Acorns. May be put to good use as a feed if supplemented with an adequate supply of protein. The acorns used came from the blue oak.

Flax hulls, consisting of residual hulls. Indicated feeding value about equal to poor quality straw.

St. John's bread, from the leguminous carob tree. A pod fed at one time to calves and found, when ground with the beans, to have a feeding value about equal to that of barley.

Mesquite beans and pods, from the leguminous shrub. When ground, showed a value somewhat under that of barley for cattle feeding.

THE COWMAN'S COLUMN

Arthur H. Noon, for the past 50 years operator of a ranch near Arivoca, Ariz., passed away on June 10. He had been a member of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association since its organization. He was also interested in the mining business. Mr. Noon rode the range when the Apaches were on the rampage and was the first ranger on the Coronado Forest.

Loren C. Bamert, for three years president of the California Cattlemen's Association, was recently made a director of the State Chamber of Commerce with which position he also became chairman of the chamber's Central Valleys council which maintains offices at Stockton, California.



Loren Bamert

Dr. C. U. Duckworth, for the past 11 years chief of California's division of animal industry, has been appointed assistant director of agriculture for that state. Dr. Duckworth has served in various capacities with the agriculture departments of his home state and of Montana. He is first vice-president of the United States Livestock Sanitary Association.

A fellow who sits at a desk all day is glad when someone from the open country comes in. That was so when Andrew Johnston, who used to ranch near Alpha, N. D., came to the PRODUCER office on his way from Arizona to North Dakota for the meeting in Dickinson and told about the time he turned out one of his horses with shoes on. "It turned out to be a pretty good idea," he said. "This horse soon learned that he was an expert as a provider of winter feed and water and went around pawing into all my water-holes. He saved me the work of going around and breaking the ice as we always had to do."

The cover picture this month is a Chas. J. Belden picture, as we know our readers will recognize. Mr. Belden, who took most of his pictures at the Pitchfork Ranch, Pitchfork, Wyo., is still sending us some of his good shots. . . . Last month's cover came from Leo D. Harris, cowboy photographer of Killdeer, N. D.

A. A. (Tony) Johns, who had served for 14 years as president of the Arizona Wool Growers' Association and was long prominent in the political and civic affairs of his state, died in Prescott May 24 at the age of 80. Mr. Johns was born in Cornwall, England, in 1864, and came to the United States as a boy, arriving in Yavapai County, Ariz., when he was 18. In 1892 he married Miss Cora Weaver, first white child born in Prescott; her father,

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Breeders Supply Co. Council Bluffs Iowa

B. H. Weaver, was the pioneer owner of the first newspaper published in the territory. Mrs. Johns died several years ago. Among Mr. Johns' many interests were included road construction, mining and wool growing. He entered the cattle and sheep business shortly after the end of World War I, with holdings west of Seligman. He served as speaker of the house and president of the senate of Arizona, and was a member of the University of Arizona board of regents in the 1920's. He remained until his death an honorary president of the wool growers' association.

F. R. Carpenter, former director of grazing, Grazing Service, has purchased the Dawson ranch near Hayden, Colo. He has been leasing the ranch for some 19 years. It consists of some 2,400 acres, hay, grain, pasture in about equal amounts.

Effective with the resignation after 20 years of service in the Department of Agriculture of W. O. Fraser, who is accepting a position with Chicago's Wilson and Company, S. R. Newell has been named assistant chief of the livestock and meats branch of WFA. The new assistant has been with the Department of Agriculture 18 years. . . . Another Department of Agriculture official to accept a position with Wilson and Company is Donald F. Christy, who has been connected with the agricultural department 20 years and who was assistant director of the office of foreign agricultural relations.

J. Elmer Brock, Kaycee, Wyo., past president of the American National Live Stock Association, writes that his section is now assured of a fine grass supply this year. At the time of his letter his section, as he put it, was still a "sea of mud."

An honorary degree of doctor of agriculture has been conferred upon H. L. Kokernot, former president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association.



"Your husband's spirit can't get through tonight. His first wife won't let him out!"

ciation, by Texas A. & M. College. Mr. Kokernot's 06 ranch comprises some 300,000 acres in Brewster, Jeff Davis and Pecos counties, and is one of the largest ranch properties in the Big Bend section of Texas. Around 20,000 Hereford cattle carry the 06 brand, which was first recorded at Indianola, Tex., seaport which was destroyed in the gulf storms of 1875 and 1885. Since that recording, in 1838, the trade mark has been used by four succeeding generations of the Kokernot family.

A recent ranch transfer is that involving the famous C Bar Ranch in Colorado's San Luis Valley, recently sold by Russell Wilkins, head of the firm owning the property, for a cash price of \$153,900. The holdings consist of 16,480 acres. It was previously held by the Travelers Life Insurance Company.

Stafford C. Painter, widely known western cattleman and manager of the Painter Hereford Company of Roggen, Colo., was married in April to Mrs. Christine Sanders Thielems at Greeley, Colo. Mr. Painter is the son of the late William Painter and had spent some time in engineering work for Westinghouse before entering the ranching business. Since 1940 he has served as general manager of the combined holdings of the William Painter Hereford Company and the John E. Painter & Sons ranches, in the merger of which interests he played an active part.

Herman Hormel, 78-year-old brother of the George A. Hormel Company, Austin, Minn., founder, died recently after an illness of several months. A vice-president and director of the Hormel firm for 35 years, he had, however, been inactive in the business for the past 20 years.

After a 19-year association with the Forest Service, Ed. E. Birkmaier, assistant regional forester in charge of the division of wildlife and range management for the Rocky Mountain region, is severing that connection to engage in the cattle business with his father-in-law, Alvin McFetridge, at Enterprise, Ore. Most recently stationed at Denver, Mr. Birkmaier has served in the North Pacific region and in Washington, and is widely known among stockmen of the West.

American National Secretary F. E. Mollin recently used this quotable expression to describe the plight of the cattleman: "The cattleman," he said, "stands in the same relation to subsidies that a boy stands to his first long-legged stilts. He has learned to balance a little on them, can toddle around a bit, but the only way he can get down is to fall down."

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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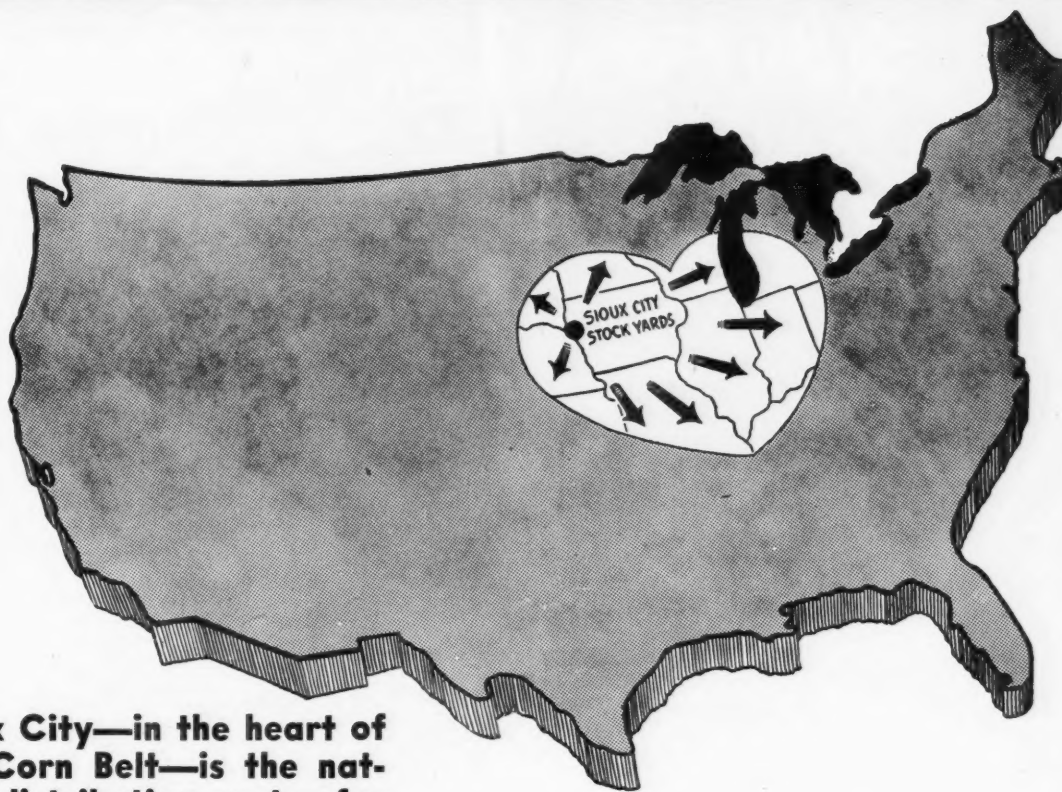
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PRODUCER



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